

Thursday March 19 1998

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Printed in London, Manchester, Frankfurt and Roubaix

Duncan Campbell talks to Roberta KrayCopy

## My marriage to Reggie Kray

G2 with European weather



Richard Boston on a solitary talent

## Beardsley abused

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Computing

## Making a home on the Web

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# Prison staff accused of torture at the Scrubs

## Beatings dossier prompts inquiry

Duncan Campbell  
Crime Correspondent

**A**N INVESTIGATION has been launched into allegations that prisoners at Wormwood Scrubs, one of Britain's most famous jails, were subjected to "torture" in the form of systematic beatings.

The Prison Service confirmed last night that an inquiry would examine claims that at least eight inmates, and possibly many more, had been assaulted by prison officers.

A dossier made by prisoners at the west London jail and passed to the Prison Service suggested that parts of the prison were "out of control". The deputy director general of the Prison Service, Tony Pearson, said yesterday that an investigation by a "senior and experienced" governor would probably start today. He said that if the claims were true, "it would represent a serious failure by some officers to treat prisoners in a decent and humane manner".

The complaints were first made at the end of last year in a letter from the prison to the Prison Reform Trust, chaired by the former home secretary, Lord Hurd. A prisoner claimed that he had been subjected to serious beatings and suffered major injuries. He alleged his head had been stamped on and bashed against a wall. "He went into very specific detail about his injuries," the trust's deputy director, Nick Flynn, said last night. The trust received no satisfaction from initial inquiries, and contacted the London law firm of Hickman Rose to pursue the man's claims.

Mr Flynn said: "There appears to have been a conspiracy of silence." He welcomed the speed with which the inquiry had been announced, but said that because of the serious nature of the claims the officers named should be suspended pending the completion of the investigation. Last night, Daniel Machover, of Hickman Rose, said: "We are absolutely shocked. A very reliable source has said that things are out of control. There are allegations of widespread assault on more than 10 prisoners." The allegations in one case "amount to torture... We think we have reached the tip of an iceberg."

The firm investigated other claims and this week passed a dossier to the Chief Inspector of Prisons, Sir David Ramsbotham. The matter was then referred to the Home Secretary, Jack Straw. Many of the prisoners who claim to have been attacked are black. One is believed to be a sex offender. Mr Flynn said some of the prisoners had suggested that they were hurt in ways which would not show their injuries. He said that it was extremely rare for the trust to be sent such specific details of alleged violence.

Mark Healy, chairman of the Prison Officers' Association, said last night that his members would co-operate fully with any inquiry. He had been unaware of the allegations until they were raised with him by the media. The National Association of Offenders called for a vigorous inquiry. Spokesman Paul Cavendish said: "We welcome the Prison Service's prompt action in setting up this inquiry and the clear instructions from the Prison Officers' Association that its members must co-operate."



## The relentless destroyer



This strain of the TB bacillus is resistant to antibiotics. Up to 50 million people may already be infected by something like it. Why are the numbers inexorably rising? TB on the rampage, page 2 PHOTOGRAPH: KARI LOUNATMAA, SCIENCE PHOTO LIBRARY

## Shakespeare oui... anglais non

Jon Henley in Paris

**T**HE French, long loath to admit the importance of being able to say "I am sorry, I do not speak it," have launched a determined drive to improve their record as some of Europe's most reluctant foreign language learners. "A fight against English is a fight that cannot be won," the education minister, Claude Allègre, said yesterday, unveiling a far-reaching plan to make

English lessons compulsory in all French primary schools for children over the age of eight. "And we are not talking here about a so-called sensitisation to the language, but about proper learning," Mr Allègre said. "It is clear that the younger one starts learning the better."

The resolutely anglophone minister, often hauled up by more chauvinist colleagues for his frequent use of English catchphrases, pointed out that according to a recent survey, fully 60 per cent of

French people felt unable to express themselves in any foreign language. "We have to wake up to the fact that in today's world, this is not good enough," a ministry spokeswoman said. According to ministry estimates, about 50 per cent of under-10s receive some form of initiation into English.

But the lessons are largely ineffectual because only 13 per cent of staff speak enough English for the purpose. The number of English-

language school assistants — mainly students of French spending a year abroad as part of their course — will be nearly doubled, and the quality of English teaching will also be improved by placing a greater emphasis on oral skills in recruiting new teachers.

At present, the spokeswoman said, many French teachers of English were "more capable of dissecting Shakespeare in French than holding a conversation in English. That has to change."

# Soaring pound dents Budget

## Chancellor puts pressure on Bank to peg loan rates

Mark Atkinson and Michael White

**T**HE Chancellor, Gordon Brown, yesterday put pressure on the Bank of England not to raise interest rates as sterling soared to its highest level for nine years on foreign exchanges.

Mr Brown insisted publicly that the cost of borrowing was a matter for the independent central bank alone. But he made it clear that his stringent Budget did not give the Bank the green light to put up base rates.

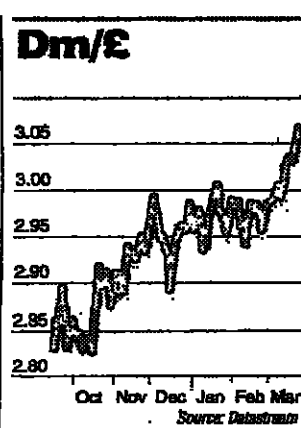
The Chancellor, interviewed on BBC Radio, pressed sympathy for exporters suffering under the pound's strength. But asked if he was happy to see a sixth interest rate rise since the election, he replied: "That's a matter for the Bank of England," underlining City perceptions he has washed his hands of managing the pound in the short term.

Others were less sanguine. Philip Isherwood of broker Dresdner Kleinwort Benson warned: "UK plc could be saddled with higher interest rates and a higher pound as a result of this budget, with the attendant cost on the economy and profits."

The Chancellor may seek a stable and competitive pound over the medium term, but in the short term, he has almost guaranteed an uncompetitive pound. Engineering industry leaders expressed "deep disappointment" in the Budget's failure to stem the pound's rise and issued a grim warning that the trickle of job losses seen so far in manufacturing industry could turn into a flood.

"We are starting to see a trickle of redundancies and plant closures and I think it's going to accelerate," said Graham MacKenzie, director-general of the Engineering Employers' Federation. "We're not yet talking about the UK going into recession, but certain sectors — engineering, steel and chemicals — and exporters generally might."

what they wrote the day after the Budget. At Question Time, Tony Blair was forced to defend the package against Conservative charges that they had raised business taxes and damaged confidence, and that welfare spending would rise sharply. The prime minister clashed with William Hague as he denied the Opposition leader's claims that changes to corporation tax will cost business £3.5 billion over the next two years on top of what Mr Hague called "a crippling exchange rate and falling output".



To evident ministerial annoyance, Liberal Democrats accused the Chancellor of deliberately understating projected tax revenues and overstating borrowing up to the next election, an "extraordinarily pessimistic view" that even on the Treasury's own Red Book estimates will allow him to put away billions for the pre-election campaign.

A scornful Mr Brown countered that argument by claiming that he is determined not to repeat the Tory errors of 1987-89 when a two-year Treasury surplus rapidly collapsed into a £50 billion deficit. Letters, page 9

## Prague Writers' Festival 1998

Sponsored by CEDOK Prague

The 8th Prague Writers' Festival which is to take place in Prague between April 20 and 25, 1998, under the patronage of the Prague City Council, will be for the first time sponsored by the oldest and the most experienced tour operator and travel agent CEDOK.

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## Inside

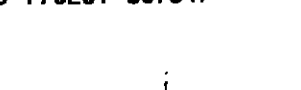
**Britain**  
The first local council in the UK to have a sex change will be elected in the forthcoming local elections.

**World News**  
People are used to seeing over 40 years of Soviet nuclear tests in Kazakhstan. They are taking to the streets to protest against a "super colony".

**Finance**  
Bill Gates teamed up with BT to start a new service of the Microsoft WebTV service offering internet access via the television set.

**Sport**  
Spectators were growing that the two new teams in the Premier League were going to have a big impact on the game.

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## Oscar says

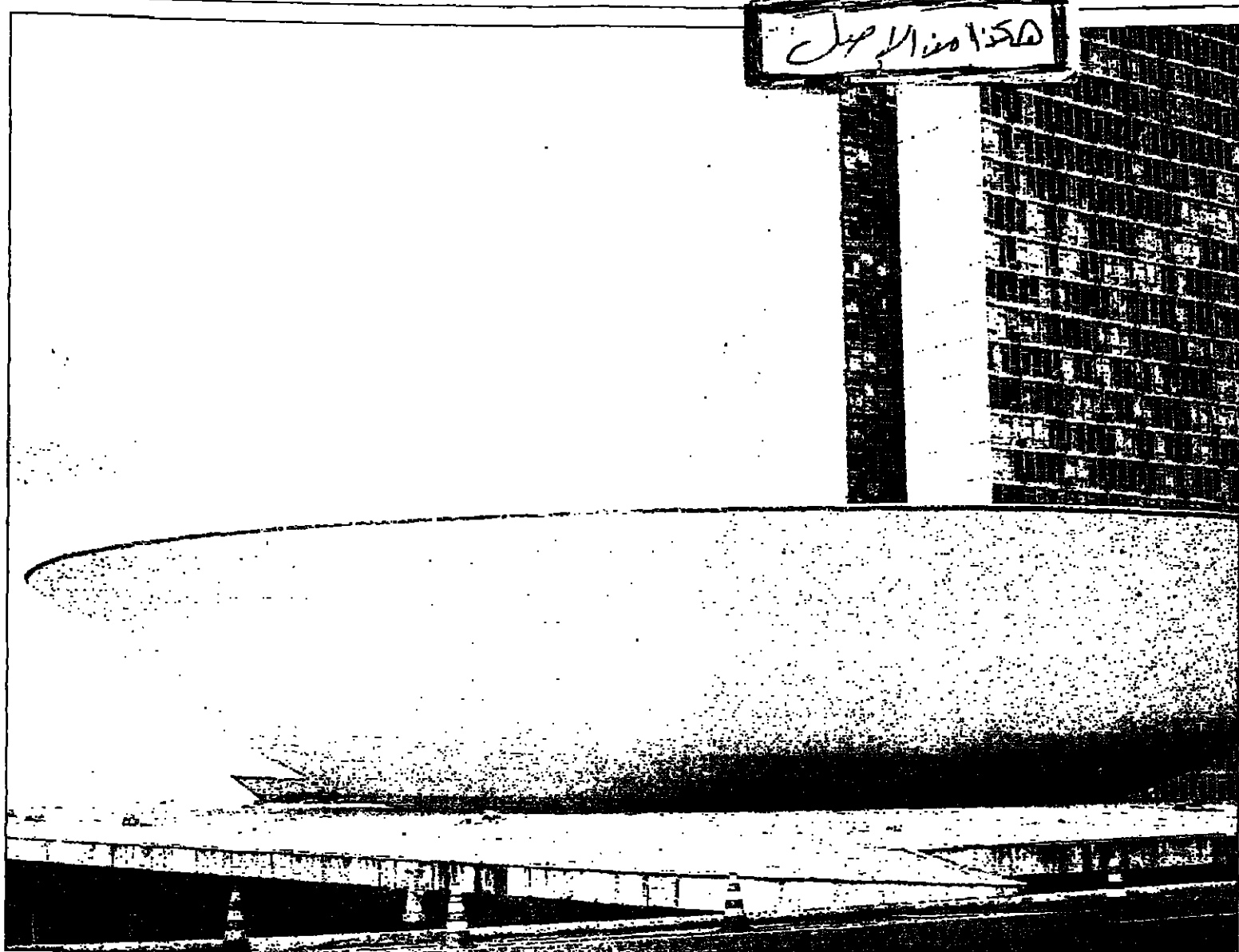
■ 'The four elements of my architecture are white beaches, huge mountains, baroque churches and beautiful tanned women'

■ 'My studio overlooks Copacabana beach — perfect inspiration'

■ 'The modern city lacks harmony and a sense of occasion. Brasilia will never lack these'

■ 'My architecture is very personal. It is the search for beauty, the search for a different form, for miraculous possibilities'

■ 'I have spent my entire life at the drawing board... just dreaming about architecture'



The House of Representatives in Brasilia, one of the key architectural achievements of Oscar Niemeyer (top left)

PHOTOGRAPH ANDREW HIGGOTT

## Architecture's accolade — at 91

Jonathan Glancey assesses Oscar Niemeyer, who has been awarded RIBA's gold medal

THE great Brazilian architect Oscar Niemeyer, loved and lionised by young designers, has been awarded the world's most prestigious prize for architecture at the age of 91.

It is amazing that Niemeyer, born in Rio de Janeiro in 1907, has had to wait so long for the Royal Gold Medal for Architecture. Among the British establishment, he appears either to have been forgotten or simply to be out of style and favour, despite the fact that he is still very much at work.

But he has been recently rediscovered by the young,

and particularly by the well travelled: he has rarely built outside Brazil.

Niemeyer, a founding member of the Modern Movement, was the leading disciple of Le Corbusier (1887-1965), with whom he collaborated on the design of the Ministry of Health and Education building in Rio de Janeiro (1936), the Brazilian pavilion at the New York World's Fair in 1939, and the United Nations building in New York, between 1947 and 1952.

Niemeyer is best known, though, for the monumentally poetic government buildings he designed for Brasilia, the Brazilian capital he mas-

termined and in effect built with the planner Lucio Costa between 1955 and 1958 under the dynamic presidency of Juscelino Kubitschek, an optimistic expansionist who believed in Brazil's destiny as a major player on the world stage.

The Presidential Palace, the Federal Supreme Court, and above all the National Congress with its twin towers and twin domes (one inverted), are buildings that, once seen, are never forgotten. They owed as much to the monuments of the ancient world for inspiration as they did to the precepts and propagandising of the Modern Movement.

Niemeyer also designed Brasilia's cathedral, a swooping concrete structure in the guise of a crown of thorns.

He built his own house in Rio in 1964, on a hillside overlooking the ocean. When Wal-

ter Gropius, founder of the Bauhaus school of architecture and design, first saw it, he said: "Oscar. I like your house, but it's not repeatable." This was meant as a criticism. Where Gropius and other founding fathers of the Modern Movement believed in a functional architecture rooted in an industrial aesthetic and mass-production technology, Niemeyer was always a poet in spirit. His buildings reveal his hand as surely as Gropius tried, vainly, to hide his.

"Architecture, as Le Corbusier told me, is invention," he says, "and mine is very personal. It is the search for beauty, the search for a different form within the miraculous possibilities of technique and functional objectives."

In 1964, Niemeyer went into voluntary exile in Europe after a military coup. The

generals ran the country for the next 21 years; during their dictatorship over 200,000 Brazilians were imprisoned, many tortured and killed.

In France, Niemeyer designed the headquarters of the Communist Party in Paris (1966) and the Cultural Centre at Le Havre, the port which was severely bombed during the second world war and rebuilt by Auguste Perret, who had taught the young Le Corbusier how to build in concrete.

Niemeyer returned to Brazil in 1970, and, although frequently hounded by the authorities, was able to resume work. Some of his finest work dates from very recently, including the new Museum of Contemporary Art overlooking the sea at Rio.

Current projects — Niemeyer is never less than busy — include a cultural centre in

Barra da Tijuca in Rio. He has not, to his regret, built in Britain. A project for the University of Oxford was toyed with, but never realised.

In recent years, Niemeyer has become a darling of young architects, and was even featured — over nine pages — in *Wallpaper*, the camp lifestyle magazine.

The committee behind the Royal Gold Medal Award, instituted by Queen Victoria and the Royal Institute of British Architects in 1848 and the world's most prestigious architecture prize, were for years apparently unaware of his popularity, and initially took against the idea of awarding him the medal.

As it turns out, they have done the right thing. Fashion aside, few 20th-century architects have been able to build a body of such powerful, highly individual monuments.

## Unrepentant Cook wants Israel out of Lebanon

Ian Black in Damascus and Michael White

AN UNREPENTANT Robin Cook last night underlined European determination to prod Israel towards a comprehensive Middle East settlement when he called for an unconditional Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon.

The Foreign Secretary's remarks in Beirut came in the wake of his stormy visit to Israel and angry accusations by senior Israeli officials that his meeting with a Palestinian official at the disputed Har Homa settlement in East Jerusalem had breached the terms of the visit.

Tony Blair threw his full weight behind Mr Cook in the face of Conservative taunts that the Foreign Secretary had again "courted controversy" on an overseas trip. That view was encouraged by one of Mr Cook's predecessors, Sir Malcolm Rifkind, but not by another, Lord Hurd, who expressed sympathy and said: "We agree with the policy."

Snow greeted Mr Cook in Syria and Lebanon on the final stage of his Middle East trip. But there were warm words for British and European diplomacy in Damascus and Beirut, where both governments seek movement in the long-stalled peace process.

With that aim in mind Mr Cook told reporters that he wanted to see the implementation of UN Resolution 425, 20 years old today, which calls for Israeli withdrawal from south Lebanon.

"We would also like to see it implemented in the context of a comprehensive settlement which would enable progress on the peace process for all the tracks, not just one track. I wish to make sure that all sides can live in security," Mr Cook said.

His insistence that he had Downing Street's support in highlighting British and EU opposition to illegal settlement activity was upheld in London. His itinerary had been cleared by EU foreign ministers, British officials stressed, and nothing had been done by Mr Cook's party to breach an understanding with Binyamin Netanyahu's government.

Speaking on Radio 4, Sir Malcolm called the incident a "disaster" and suggested the Foreign Secretary was almost "persona non grata" in Israel. "I think there must be a question mark about his personality for this particular job," he said.

In contrast Lord Hurd said Mr Cook was right to go to Har Homa and that the necessary balancing act was "extraordinarily difficult to do". Mr Cook himself was unabashed. "I was determined to demonstrate our deep concern that the expansion of settlements makes it difficult to resume momentum in the peace talks," he said after talks with President Hafez al-Assad of Syria.

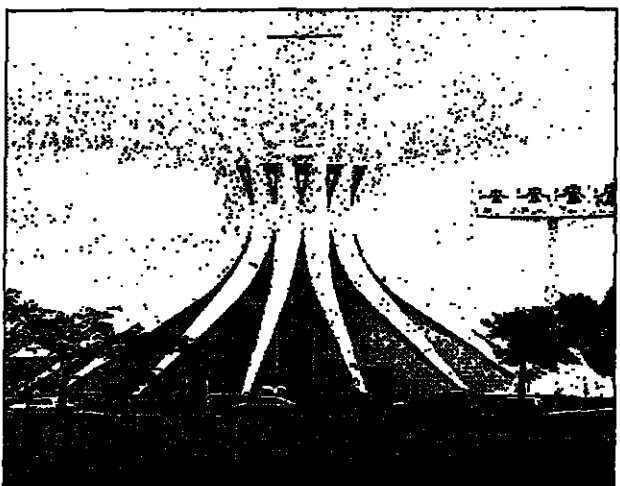
"There was a consensus among my hosts that I was right to draw attention to the issue of settlements." Mr Cook himself was unabashed. "I was determined to demonstrate our deep concern that the expansion of settlements makes it difficult to resume momentum in the peace talks," he said after talks with President Hafez al-Assad of Syria.

British officials were unrepentant but clearly taken aback by the ferocity of Israel's response to Mr Cook's meeting with a Palestinian MP at Har Homa. "We have to stick to our guns. But no one can claim it was enjoyable," said one. Aides said the Foreign Secretary had not planned to lay a wreath at a memorial for Palestinians killed by Israel, but found he had no choice when he was given it during a meeting in East Jerusalem.

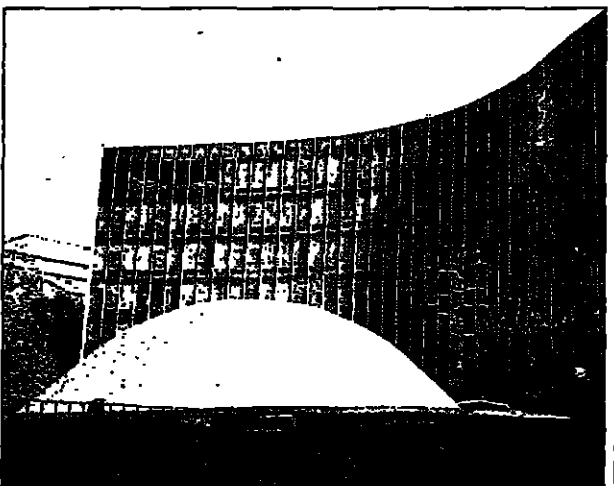
"Israelis don't understand that the real issue is frustration in the EU," a Foreign Office official said. "The more the Israelis spurn EU efforts the harder it will be for the EU to back up the Americans. Britain is trying to channel that frustration in a constructive way."

With Israel yesterday signalling an end to the row, the hope is for a calmer mood when Mr Blair visits next month before the country's 50th anniversary celebrations.

Don't get Cook, page 8; Lander comment, page 9



The Brasilia cathedral, in the form of a crown of thorns



Communist Party headquarters in Paris

## MPs urge state holding in Railtrack

Prescott likely to consider plan to hand failing rail operators to BR

Keith Harper Transport Editor

THE first move in a return of the privatised railway to the public sector, with the Government taking a share in Railtrack, was proposed yesterday by an influential committee of MPs, backed by the Tories.

The plan, to which the Deputy Prime Minister, John Prescott, is likely to give serious consideration when he draws up a transport bill in the autumn, suggests that the Government could take an equity share in Railtrack, and bail out failing train operating companies by handing them back to British Rail.

Senior government advisers have already begun studying how the Government could take back some control in an industry which

this year will receive £1.8 billion in state aid. The option of a "golden share" in Railtrack is one of them, although ministers are anxious not to frighten off City investors by threatening a re-nationalisation of the industry, which the Prime Minister would oppose and the Government says it could not afford.

Ministers would have to decide the size of the Government's share in Railtrack. On current prices, a 5 per cent stake would cost it around £250 million. For this, it would almost certainly be able to insist on a non-executive director.

The report proposes that British Rail, which still exists as a shell company, could be invited to operate any rail company which failed. Its board has just been expanded with appointments by Mr Prescott. The Deputy Prime Minister

welcomed the report. "We are determined to ensure the railways are run in the public interest," he said.

Gwyneth Dunwoody, chair of the Commons environment, transport and regional affairs select committee, which drew up the report, made it clear that it was not an attempt to "re-do what existed before privatisation." But she said: "We are determined that the railways run in the public interest. The industry has gone through an enormous period of trauma and chaos, and is in need of clear guidance."

At the heart of the committee's plan is a Strategic Rail Authority, backed by Labour in its election manifesto, which would assume most of the powers of the two existing main regulatory bodies, the rail regulator and the rail franchise director.

The new authority would seek tougher train service quality targets, and impose quick and effective penalties if they were not met. It would

make sure that Railtrack kept up its investment programme, and would administer public subsidies handed out by the Government.

The report concludes that the sell-off of the nationalised system was a disappointment. "We are disappointed that the train operators' performance has shown no general improvement over the past year, and on half these routes has actually declined."

The committee believes that the passenger watchdog bodies should be given more authority and better funding.

Save Our Railways' national secretary, Keith Eill, said: "The report sets out unambiguous guidance to John Prescott about how to begin the process of reform."

Yesterday's report comes as Brian Cox, a director of Stagecoach, said the company may not bid again for South West Trains when its £300 million a year contract is relet in seven years.

Leader comment, page 9

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India	50p	50p	Save 43p
Germany	13p	13p	Save 11p
New Zealand	22p	22p	Save 43p
Bangladesh	50p	50p	Save 30p
Canada	12p	12p	Save 30p
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WB Yeats describes Beardsley staring at himself in a mirror muttering 'Yes, yes. I look like a Sodomite,' and adding, 'but no, I am not that.'

Ricahrd Boston reviews two biographies of a solitary talent

Books, G2 page 8



T BILAIN

# Forgers 'planned to flood England with fake notes'

**F**ORGERS with the technology to produce £1 million worth of fake notes every couple of hours were yesterday jailed for up to 10 years each.

The six-man Glasgow gang intended to flood England with forged Bank of England £20 and Clydesdale £5 notes during the Euro 96 football championships, as thousands of Scots travelled down to London, the High Court in Edinburgh was told.

They also planned to make other fake notes, including Danish kroner, plus postage and savings stamps in a crime which judge Lord Cameron said would have "struck at the heart of economic and commercial life".

Police launched a surveillance operation after learning that the group — led by Thomas McAnea, 48, and Raymond Dean, 44, was operating out of a shop in the Partick district. When it was searched, officers discovered a press set up to forge £20 Bank of England notes and paper ready to be printed. Stamps were already packed ready for distribution.

Dean and McAnea, together with another gang member, 40-year-old John McGregor, avoided a police swoop on the premises, however, and set up another base in the Glasgow-Dalmarnock area of Glasgow.



Ringleaders (from left) Thomas McAnea and Raymond Dean with designer Iain Ruxton

McAnea had a legitimate printing business, Tronprint, and equipment from that had ended up at Dalmarnock.

Dean was seen by a surveillance team dumping four bags in a skip at the back of the building. They included sheets of fake kroner banknotes and printing plates.

Detective Chief Superintendent John Campbell said officers discovered enough paper to create £1,600,000 in £20 notes.

"With Scotland partaking in the European Championships there would be an awful lot of Scots going to England — and obviously they had the



potential with the Bank of England £20 notes and Clydesdale £5 notes — to exploit a very large market at the time," he said. At one point the eight-week trial faced collapse because of errors in police search warrants which gave the wrong date — 1989 instead of 1991 — for the Forgery and Counterfeiting Act.

Falling McAnea — who was found guilty of counterfeiting and conspiracy to defraud charges — for a total of 10 years, Lord Cameron told him: "It is clear that you were one of the principals. Counterfeiting currency notes has the potential to destroy confidence in lawful issued currency of a country and betray all those who trust in it."

Another key figure, Dean, was jailed for eight and a half years. He had been found guilty of counterfeiting and conspiracy to defraud.

McGregor, a printer, who was involved in production of the £20 notes, was jailed for five years and graphic designer Iain Ruxton, 26, for two years.



A second printer, Dennis McGinnis, 39, was sent to prison for 12 months.

The last member of the gang, Geoffrey Renshaw, 48, was fined £1,000.

When the mast broke, the British catamaran was within 400 miles of the Frenchman's position after the same time afloat. Enough of the mast has remained for the crew to attempt to set a jury rig, cobble together with spars and sails.

Once the jury rig is erected, the catamaran will be sailed to a South American port.

Whatever type of rig is used, however, it is unlikely that Royal & Sun Alliance will be able to head far away from dead downwind. The south-westerlies which prevail should lift her north of Punta Arenas and possibly up to Puerto Montt, in Chile, 800 miles north of Cape Horn.

It is expected to take the crew at least 10 days to reach safety. There is no doubt that the crew, however, as the boat is equipped with at least 40 days of supplies.

Tracy Edwards, skipper of all-woman catamaran crew and the danger appeared to be past, but almost five minutes later the carbon fibre mast snapped with an explosive noise and folded in two.

"We were so close to getting to Cape Horn in such good time against the record," said skipper Edwards, who was struck by the catamaran. "It is tragic that after 43 days and 15,200 miles, all our efforts

came to nothing in just an instant."

"We are disappointed, above all, for the girls," said Mike Jones, director of communication for Royal & Sun Alliance. They have shown over the last few days that they were capable of breaking the old mark."

The record was set last year by France's Olivier de Kersanson, who completed the circumnavigation in 71 days 14 hours 23 minutes.

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Once the jury rig is erected, the catamaran will be sailed to a South American port.

## Government to fight Brussels plans that could slash £500m a year

### Poorer UK regions face 'colossal' Europe aid cut

Martin Walker in Brussels and David Gow

**T**HE Government yesterday declared open warfare on plans by the European Commission to cut aid for Britain's poorer regions by up to £500 million a year.

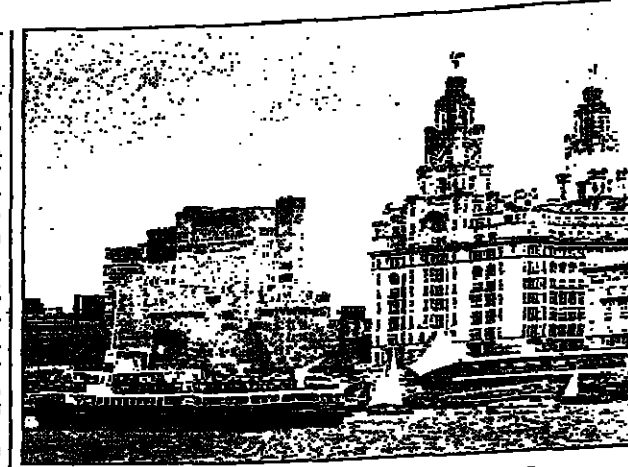
Only Merseyside and South Yorkshire qualify as poor enough to be given priority status for EU aid under proposed reforms of funds for Europe's neediest areas adopted by the Brussels commission.

Northern Ireland and the Highlands and Islands would lose that status but ministers pledged to win it back for them.

A score of other UK regions could suffer what government officials called "potentially colossal losses" in aid because Brussels has redrawn its map of relative wealth, unemployment and decline in the run-up to admitting new, largely poor eastern European, members early in the next century.

Britain will have received more than £9 billion in aid when the six-year scheme runs out at the end of next year and accepts that the new scheme must be affordable.

But the Government's campaign to reverse the proposed



Merseyside retains priority status for EU aid — for now

reforms is doubly embarrassing.

First, it has been launched in the middle of the UK's six-month presidency of the EU which is being accompanied by unprecedented lobbying of other countries to gain support.

Germany, Holland and Austria yesterday signalled their opposition, largely because the six-year aid programme will cost £180 billion and they want to cut their share of the overall EU budget.

Second, the reason why the bulk of Britain's poorer regions could suffer big cuts is because UK unemployment

is too low. It stood last month at 4.9 per cent according to official figures released yesterday, or less than half the rate in France and Germany and a quarter of that in Spain.

Brussels wants to concentrate aid for regions suffering structural problems (with so-called Objective 2 status), on those with above average joblessness, and limit it to just 18 per cent of the EU population.

This, Whitehall officials said, would hit Britain disproportionately.

Margaret Beckett, the Trade and Industry Secretary, said: "We believe that relying too much on unem-

ployment rates to identify those regions which should receive Objective 2 status would be an unreliable and unbalanced way of gauging regional deprivation. It would also be unfair to the UK which tends to have lower unemployment rates in equally poor regions."

Mrs Beckett wants the criteria to be extended to embrace relative poverty and economic needs, arguing that the UK deserves more aid because it is the fourth poorest EU member in terms of gross domestic product per head.

There are even fears in Whitehall that, by the time the reforms are agreed next year to take effect from 2000, even Merseyside and South Yorkshire might lose their status as most deprived regions — those with output per head below 75 per cent of the EU average over the last three years. The two qualify now with 71 and 73 per cent respectively but only on the basis of 1995 figures.

Jack Cunningham, the Agriculture Minister, yesterday welcomed the commission's proposed reform of the common agricultural policy as saving the average family £150 a week. Brussels wants to let food prices drop to world market levels and pay income support to individual farmers.

## Report urges blood control

Sarah Hall

**H**OSPITALS were urged yesterday to tighten their procedures after a report revealed that patients being given the wrong blood accounted for almost half of all transfusion complications.

One person died after being given blood from a wrongly-labelled bottle, and nine suffered serious side effects after being given blood from the wrong group.

In total, 81 of the 169 reported problems (47 per cent) were caused by such mishandling and could have been prevented, the first annual report by Serious Hazards of Transfusion (SHOT) — a scheme, representing all professional groups involved in blood transfusion — found.

Infections, reactions to transfusion, and immune problems accounted for the remaining problems.

The group aims to improve transfusion standards by monitoring private and NHS hospitals and is backed by eight Royal Colleges and six professional bodies. It found that 12 people died last year as a direct effect of blood transfusion complications.

But since only 22 per cent of the 424 eligible UK hospitals responded to the survey, the figure could be up to five times as high, said Dr Hannah Cohen, chairwoman of SHOT's steering group.

In addition to the 81 cases of mismatched blood, there were eight cases of infections being transmitted through transfusions. In one a patient died after catching malaria from infected blood; in a second, a patient became infected with HIV — the first such case in 12 years.

Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, and hepatitis E were also transmitted as well as three bacterial infections.

Where problems were due to the wrong blood being given, 54 per cent of cases were due to mistakes when the blood was collected or administered at the bedside, 33 per cent to laboratory errors, and 13 per cent to the wrong blood being requested or the patient's misidentification. In one instance, a blood transfusion was given to a patient who did not need it.

Moreover, multiple errors were about in two-thirds of the preventable cases. In three cases more than six errors were identified.

Yesterday Dr Lorna Williamson, chairwoman of the scheme's working group and a lecturer in transfusion medicine at Cambridge university, stressed that although the level of error was minimal in relation to the 2 million units of blood transfused each year there was no room for complacency. "We can't say a certain level is acceptable. As a professional body we have a duty to do everything we can to make sure the safety level is as high as possible."

"One thing we can do something about is the wrong blood being given to patients. That's potentially preventable through improving systems for identifying blood samples both in the laboratories and at the bedside."

## Woman crew's global bid ended by snapped mast

Bob Fisher

**T**HE first attempt by an all-woman crew to sail non-stop round the world ended in the Southern Ocean early yesterday morning when the 118ft mast of their catamaran snapped.

The 92ft Royal & Sun Alliance, skippered by Tracy Edwards, was racing at night in 35 knots of wind and 40ft waves when the mast cracked and crumpled over the port side, snapping off 35ft above the deck.

The accident happened 2,000 miles west of Cape Horn. No one was injured and all 11 women on board have since been reported well.

The immediate problem was to secure the broken part to the boat to stop it slamming into and piercing the hull.

A distress message was transmitted from the yacht which was relayed to the Falmouth search and rescue headquarters on Australia.

The cause of the breakage was a bow-burying wave, caused by a huge following wave, which picked the boat up and slammed it how first into the trough ahead. The boat came to a shuddering halt, causing enormous strain on the mast.

Initially, the bows lifted



Tracy Edwards, skipper of all-woman catamaran crew

and the danger appeared to be past, but almost five minutes later the carbon fibre mast snapped with an explosive noise and folded in two.

"We were so close to getting to Cape Horn in such good time against the record," said skipper Edwards, who was struck by the catamaran. "It is tragic that after 43 days and 15,200 miles, all our efforts

came to nothing in just an instant."

"We are disappointed, above all, for the girls," said Mike Jones, director of communication for Royal & Sun Alliance. They have shown over the last few days that they were capable of breaking the old mark."

The record was set last year by France's Olivier de Kersanson, who completed the circumnavigation in 71 days 14 hours 23 minutes.

When the mast broke, the British catamaran was within 400 miles of the Frenchman's position after the same time afloat. Enough of the mast has remained for the crew to attempt to set a jury rig, cobble together with spars and sails.

Once the jury rig is erected, the catamaran will be sailed to a South American port.

Whatever type of rig is used, however, it is unlikely that Royal & Sun Alliance will be able to head far away from dead downwind. The south-westerlies which prevail should lift her north of Punta Arenas and possibly up to Puerto Montt, in Chile, 800 miles north of Cape Horn.

It is expected to take the crew at least 10 days to reach safety. There is no doubt that the crew, however, as the boat is equipped with at least 40 days of supplies.

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## Labour group throws out sex change woman

Clare Dyer  
Legal Correspondent

**T**HE first local councillor to undergo a sex change while holding office was thrown out of the women's meeting at a Labour group because the women decided she was still a man.

Councillor Rosalind Mitchell, who revealed herself as a transsexual in The Guardian last September, has been having hormone treatment and living as a woman in the community, a requirement doctors impose before they carry out sex change surgery.

As David Spry, she was elected last May to Labour-controlled Bristol council at the same time as Labour swept into power in the general election.

The party made no objection to her staying in office and she made her first appearance as Rosalind Mitchell in women's clothes and makeup at a council meeting last November. Initially she used the disabled lavatory at the Council House to avoid embarrassing her colleagues, but she has switched to the ladies without any objections.

Her election at the end of January from the women's section of the Bristol West arm of the Labour Party was filmed by BBC West and shown in a documentary on Close Up West tonight in the West Country.

Two of the women present were Labour colleagues on the council.



Rosalind Mitchell arriving for her first council meeting as a woman. PHOTOGRAPH: CHRIS ISON

Michael Lund, local government correspondent for BBC West, said: "It was outrageous. I was really surprised. We were following her for a documentary and we were expecting to film her going into the meeting and to ask her 'how was it?' when she came out."

"But they took a vote and said they didn't want her in the meeting. They asked her to leave. It was terribly embarrassing for her."

Ms Mitchell said: "One thing that surprised me is that I expected hostility to come from members of the

public and for colleagues to be okay. But it's turned out to be the other way about. I think some people are resistant to anybody who dares to be different."

Crabham Manuel, Labour's regional secretary in the West, told the BBC on behalf of the women's section: "The essential question is whether that meeting regarded Rosalind as a man or a woman and at that point in time I would suggest that the majority opinion was that she was still David Spry."

The documentary filmed Ms Mitchell shopping, holding

her council surgery, at the hairdresser, canvassing in a by-election, out dancing, and seeing the consultant in London who is overseeing her sex change. Mr Lund said: "Her constituents were fine. One guy brought her a big bunch of flowers."

In a message to the Labour women, Christine Burns from the transsexual pressure group Press for Change, said: "If you took the time to understand what Ros is really going through, you'd be thoroughly ashamed at the way you're behaving towards her."

## News in brief

### Security van raiders guilty

**T**WO men were yesterday found guilty at Kingston crown court, south-west London, of taking part in Britain's biggest cash raid on a security van.

Michael Rose and Michael Sullivan would have netted £5 million in used £20 notes but the raid was foiled by an undercover policeman.

Sullivan, 28, and Rose, 47, were found guilty of theft. Five others admitted taking part in the robbery: Securitas driver Frederick Gordon, 47; Dennis Woodham, 50; Patrick Thomas, 58; Patrick Henderson, 49; and Jason Smith, 30. Thomas and Henderson admitted possessing firearms.

The men are expected to be sentenced next week.

### MP dumps Irish flag

**U**LSTER Unionist MP Ken Maginnis yesterday said he hurled two Irish tricolours — part of a Commons St Patrick's Day display — into the

Thames because he was "insulted" by their presence.

The Permalong and South Tyrone MP said the flags, on display for the saint's day on Tuesday, had nothing to do with St Patrick. "In Northern Ireland and Great Britain the tricolour is a flag of convenience for the IRA."

He said he handed the flags to a staff member, insisting they should be removed. Ten minutes later he heard they had been replaced, so he dumped them in the Thames.

### Plane wheel collapses

**A**N investigation was under way last night into why the nose-wheel of an aircraft collapsed shortly after it landed at Manchester airport with 58 passengers on board.

The passengers and four crew escaped down emergency chutes. One man aged 56 was taken to hospital with a broken ankle after the evacuation, and four others were treated on the spot for minor injuries.

Passengers on the British Regional Airlines BA 778 flight from Southampton told

how the Advanced Turbo Prop aircraft began shaking violently as the captain, Dick Sheehy, and first officer, Owen Reard, struggled to maintain control. The nose-wheel collapsed as the plane travelled at 60-70mph.

It slewed sideways across the runway and came to rest with its nose on the ground. The airport was closed for 3½ hours, with flights diverted to other airports.

The 8.30am flight had been scheduled to continue to Belfast. Investigators from the Air Accident Investigation Branch studied the eight-year-old ATP aircraft on the runway before it was removed to a BA hangar.

### Leg size link to disease

**C**HILDREN with long legs have a lower than average risk of heart disease as adults, but may be more prone to osteoporosis, say researchers from the department of social medicine at Bristol university.

A survey published yesterday suggests that leg length is the component of childhood height most strongly associ-

ated with socioeconomic and dietary factors. Shorter legs reflect poorer diet, more infections and poverty. This may influence the long-term risk of heart disease.

Those with long legs may have had a higher than average calorie intake — a factor linked to cancer.

### Child killer's appeal fails

**T**HE man jailed for life for the rape and murder of Sophie Hook, seven, yesterday had his appeal against conviction dismissed by the Court of Appeal.

Howard Hughes, 32, nicknamed "Mad Howard", was convicted at Chester crown court in July 1996. He took Sophie from the garden of her uncle's home in Llandudno, Gwynedd, where she had been sleeping in a tent with her sister and two cousins.

Patrick Harrington QC, for Hughes, said a statement by Hughes's father Gerard, saying his son had confessed, should not have been admissible. Mr Gerard Elias QC, for the Crown, said there had been no unfairness in the case.

— Jamie Wilson

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# Forlorn victims of Soviet nuclear tests

Who will help the Kazakhs still in the shadow of cold war 'research'? asks **Claudia McElroy** in Alma Ata

**G**ULZHAN Smagulova grew up in the 1960s believing that the "earthquakes" which regularly shook her house on Saturday mornings — making the furniture crash and the walls crack — were simply a necessary part of Soviet "research".

Even when her neighbour bore a severely deformed child, and her own mother died prematurely from a combination of chronic health problems, she did not imagine that as many as 500,000 people in and around her home town Semipalatinsk (Semey), in north-east Kazakhstan, were being exposed to radiation.

Now, nine years after the last nuclear bomb was exploded at the Semey testing ground and the veil of cold war secrecy was finally lifted, she can scarcely believe how little is being done to help the

victims of what she calls "a hidden war against our own people".

"The test site may be silent, but the environmental and health problems are still massive," she said. "Because Semey is in such a remote part of the country the government treats it as a leper colony. What's out of sight is out of mind."

"The most urgent issue now is to mobilise resources to help these victims improve their lives and learn to survive by themselves."

Ms Smagulova, a teacher, suffers skin disorders and high blood pressure, which she believes are due to radiation.

Between 1949 and 1989 470 nuclear tests, 118 of them above ground, were made in the region.

The consequences of 40 years of radioactive contamination of land, water and food



A sign warns against entering a crater left by a 1956 nuclear test. PHOTOGRAPH: SHAMIL ZHUMATOV

are hard to measure, but the frequency and fatality rate of cancer, cardiovascular illness and mental illness have increased dramatically.

In the village of Kainar, doctors said that 90 per cent of the 1,029 patients examined between 1952 and 1983 had Aids. The infant mortality rate is said to have tripled,

and babies continue to be born with deformities.

The Gorbachev era gave rise to numerous civil and human rights groups, including the Nevada-Semey anti-nuclear movement (named after the main US and USSR testing sites), founded by the leading Kazakh poet and politician Olzhas Suleimenov.

The movement rallied huge public support, leading to the Semey site's closure in 1991 by President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan.

Yet in a country struggling to cope with post-Soviet economic collapse, social transformation and abject poverty, the government is more concerned with luring Western

'Even if the government wants to help it can't afford it, so it has really abandoned hundreds of thousands of people'

oil, gas and mineral companies than with the environmental rehabilitation of one of its remotest regions.

At the same time it is spending huge amounts on a new capital in the isolated northern city of Aqmola, for reasons which remain opaque.

President Nazarbayev, a product of the Soviet system

and reputedly the eighth richest man in the world, "won" the 1991 elections as sole candidate, and has maintained his position by a referendum in advance of elections due in 2000.

Despite the recent formation of an opposition alliance, most observers believe he will neither face nor tolerate any serious challenge. Mr Suleimenov was dispatched to Italy as ambassador two years ago. Without him the Nevada-Semey movement has effectively collapsed.

"It is not profitable for the state to advertise the continuing crisis of the nuclear tests," said Yuri Kudim, a veteran anti-nuclear campaigner and photographer, who has just published a book of harrowing photographs of the continuing suffering in the region.

"Even if the government wants to help it can't afford it, so it has really abandoned hundreds of thousands of people."

His book shows children born without arms, some with enormous hydrocephalic heads, others blind and disfigured with tumours. "I hope my book will move people both locally and internationally to make sure this issue is kept alive. It's immoral just to abandon these people."

"Nuclear testing is still going on at Lop Nor in China, not too far from the Kazakhstan border, and just last year I saw the same deformities and radiation sickness there."

Russia, which many blame for the tragedy, has its own economic crisis and is reluctant to help. Few international aid agencies appear to have given much priority to the Semey region, some citing the difficulty of getting accurate health statistics and the country's multitude of socio-economic problems.

Ms Smagulova believes that foreign companies in Kazakhstan should take the lead in providing funds for Semey, and she is lobbying for financial support for a disabled children's home in the town.

"They have money and ultimately it would be good for their image. Once the first step is taken, hopefully others will follow."

## Serb police kill Kosovo protester

Jonathan Steele in Pristina

**S**ERBIAN police fired into a crowd of stone-throwing Albanian demonstrators yesterday in Kosovo's second city, Pec, killing one man and injuring at least 10 other people.

It was the first fatal shooting in the largely ethnic Albanian-populated province since a wave of almost daily protests started in various cities after a huge clampdown by Serb police in the region of Drenica earlier this month, which left about 80 Albanians dead.

Albanian journalists in Pec, which has a particularly militant Serb community and where tensions have been high for several days, reported that the dead man

'We've called for the removal of special police units and they've not been removed'

was aged 50. The injured included a woman of 18.

In Kosovo's capital, Pristina, a march by more than 20,000 Albanians through the city centre ended peacefully. A few hours later some 2,000 Serb students staged a counter-march past the shuttered United States Information Office.

Robert Gelbard, the special US envoy for the Balkans, was in Pristina, but not in the building at the time. At talks with Ibrahim Rugova, head of the Democratic League of Kosovo, the largest Albanian party, Mr Gelbard won agreement that the Kosovo Albanians would form a united front in the expected dialogue with the Serbian government, to which all sides have committed themselves.

Dr Rugova is widely criticised by fellow-Albanians for being a one-man band, though he commands more support than other leaders. But he said he would create a "broad-based advisory group" to assist in unconditional talks with the Serb authorities.

It is expected to include Adam Demaci, the leader of the rival Parliamentary Party of Kosovo, and some of Albania's ex-communist politicians who ran the province in the 1970s and 1980s.

Mr Gelbard described himself as "heartened" by what was "a serious effort by Dr Rugova to show he is preparing to move ahead rapidly, seriously and privately on an unconditional dialogue".

Dr Rugova had earlier insisted that no dialogue was possible unless it led to independence.

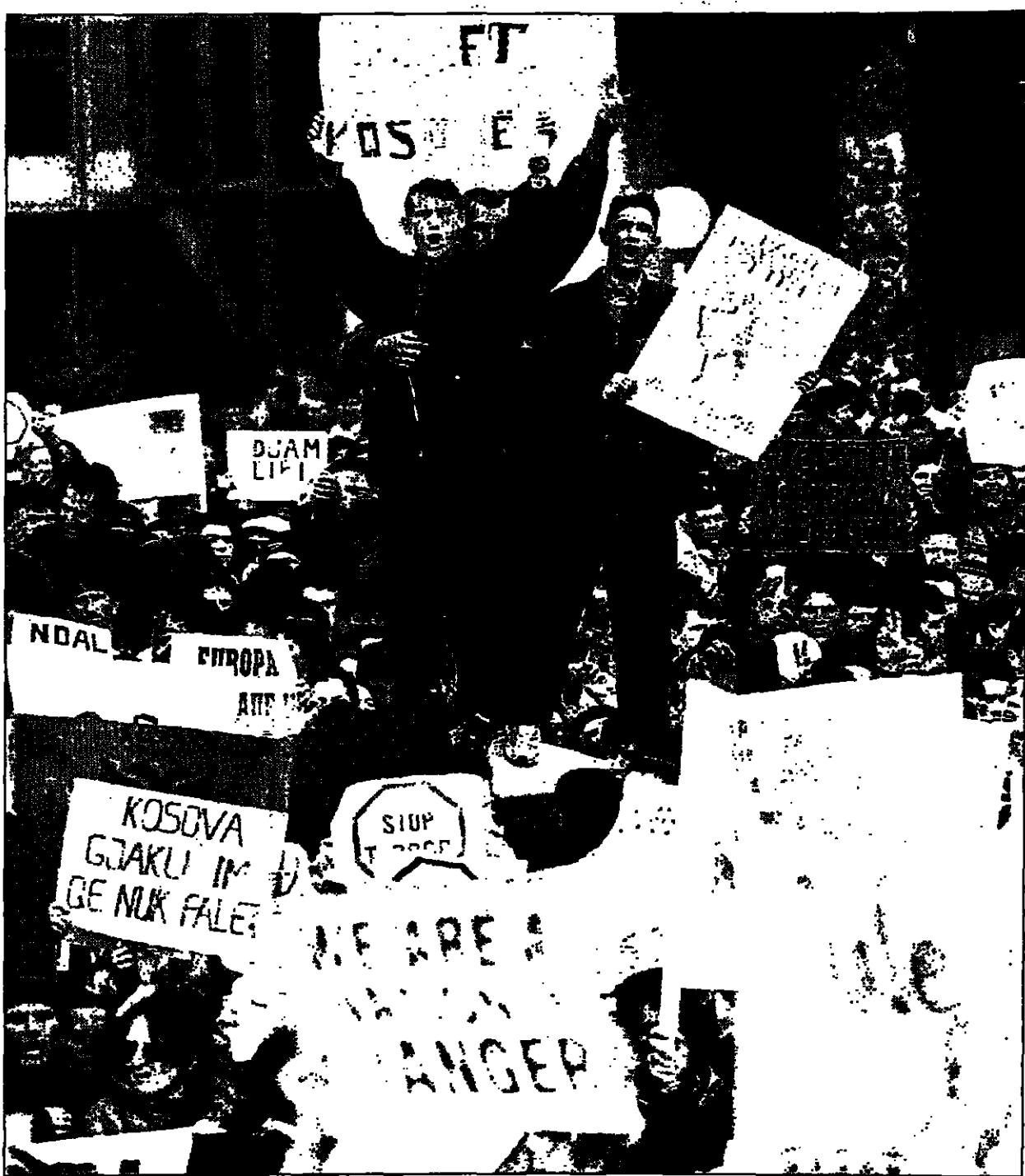
Mr Gelbard launched a withering attack on Slobodan Milosevic, the Yugoslav president.

"I'm not encouraged at all by the virtually utter lack of progress by the government of the former republic of Yugoslavia in meeting the Contact Group's demands," he said.

The group, which comprises the US, Russia, Britain, France, Germany and Italy, gave Mr Milosevic a 10-day ultimatum on Monday last week to withdraw special police units from Kosovo, allow humanitarian aid to Drenica and commence talks with the Kosovo Albanians, or face a tightening of sanctions.

Mr Gelbard said: "We've called for the removal of special police units and they've not been removed." Two members of his staff were turned back yesterday from visiting Prekaz, the site of the Serb onslaught a fortnight ago, he reported, and US diplomats and journalists had received death threats.

"All these are outrageous acts," Mr Gelbard said. But Bosko Drobniak, the secretary of information for the Serb authorities in Kosovo, claimed yesterday that special counter-terrorist police units had been withdrawn. The men in camouflage fatigues manning sandbagged checkpoints in Drenica with armoured personnel carriers and automatic rifles were "ordinary police", he said.



More than 20,000 Albanians protest peacefully in Kosovo's capital Pristina yesterday

PHOTOGRAPH: ANJA NIEDERHOLM

## Swiss bankers wary of role in 'dirty money' war

Harriet Martin in Geneva

**T**HE Swiss banking culture of privacy and confidentiality is under threat from a new law to combat money laundering which aims to redress the country's international reputation for harbouring "dirty money".

The law, which comes into force next month, obliges

bankers to inform the Swiss authorities if they have suspicions about the origins of money in clients' accounts.

Carla Del Ponte, the Swiss prosecutor-general, last month told a conference of officials responsible for implementing the law: "There's enormous international pressure on Switzerland to act. At last we can say we're leading the war on dirty money."

Since 1990, when an international code combating money laundering was established, Swiss banks have had a right to inform the authorities of suspicious accounts, but they were not under an obligation to do so. Now they will be, and the new law extends to financial intermediaries such as money-changers, lawyers and insurers. It also includes an

obligation to freeze suspicious accounts.

Many bankers feel uneasy. Michael Wyler, of the Geneva Financial-Centre Foundation, says the law will change Swiss banking culture. "It creates a very different environment. The obligation to denounce is based on suspicion. The banker becomes a conduit of justice, which most bankers believe they should not be."

Mr Wyler says the new law could threaten the bank's relationship with a client. "If a client who's been around for a few years with regular transactions suddenly has a few million dollars come into his accounts, and the banker feels there is something fishy, he is obliged to inform the authorities. He has to freeze the account, and he cannot tell the client."

"The banker is in an awkward situation."

Michel de Robert, spokesman for the Swiss Bankers Association, says there is a fear among bankers and lawyers that the number of reports will overwhelm the authorities. "If your suspicion is very weak, what do you do? I hope we are not going to flood the authorities with useless reports."

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## Secret files unlocked



Freedom marchers flee as police fire tear-gas into their tents in Canton, Mississippi, in 1966. The state had a network of informers and secret police to spy on civil rights activists

## Spies hounded black activists

Mississippi ran a Stasi-style network that targeted 1960s civil rights campaigners, reports **Martin Kettle** in Washington

**T**HE Deep South state of Mississippi has unlocked the secret files of the Stasi-style agency it set up to spy on civil rights workers and other activists during the historic battles for racial desegregation in the 1960s.

After a 21-year legal battle, Mississippi has released more than 135,000 pages of documents relating to about 67,000 named individuals who were targeted secretly by the now-defunct Mississippi Sovereignty Commission, some for up to 20 years.

The files reveal that the state-wide informer and

secret policing network, established in 1956, kept details about the race, associations, religious beliefs and sex lives of thousands of activists in the civil rights battle.

They show that informers, many of them black, kept details of car licence plates of people attending civil rights meetings. Homes and hotels were regularly watched and some investigators managed to obtain bank account details of people they were targeting.

Researchers examining the documents say there is no evidence that the state itself had a direct hand in any of the criminal acts, including murder, which had been commit-

ted against civil rights workers.

The papers do show, however, the violent and racist mentality that pervaded the state agency as it attempted to maintain segregation.

In a 1969 memorandum, a commission agent Zack VanLandingham quotes a Hattiesburg lawyer Dudley Connor as suggesting ways in which a black civil rights activist Clyde Kennard could be removed from the area.

"Mr Connor stated that Kennard's car could be hit by a train or he could have some accident on the highway and nobody would ever know the difference," VanLandingham wrote.

In another memo, he says he had been approached by people wanting to stop Kennard from his campaign to desegregate Mississippi Southern College in Hattiesburg.

"One of the plans was to put dynamite to the starter of Mr Kennard's Mercury. Another plan was to have some liquor planted in Kennard's car and then he would be arrested."

Kennard was arrested on charges of illegal possession of whisky in 1959. He died of cancer some months later.

"It was peacetime, but it was a war. It was the unseen war," Unita Blackwell, a 1960s black activist, said yesterday. "They had spies all around us. Some of them we saw. Some of them we didn't know."

Mrs Blackwell, who is mentioned in 98 of the newly released files for her campaign to register blacks to vote, said she was jailed "so many times I can't remember them all". In 1976 she became the first black mayor of her home town, Mayersville.

Local prosecutors say that

crimes reported in the released documents could still be prosecuted.

"Certainly if there's any evidence that comes to light regarding any crime that occurred in our jurisdiction, then we'll certainly investigate that, take a look at it to see whether it's prosecutable," Bobby DeLaughter, an assistant district attorney in the state capital, Jackson, said.

"It's terribly important for people to understand how out of control a government became," Rita Bender, a Seattle lawyer whose husband Michael Schwerner was murdered in Mississippi in 1964 with two fellow civil rights workers, said.

The Mississippi Sovereignty Commission had tracked Schwerner's movements prior to his death. The commission was set up

by the Mississippi state legislature to "protect the state of Mississippi and her sister states" from what was described as "federal government interference". In practice it worked to preserve segregation and to oppose school integration, which had been legalised by the United States Supreme Court in 1954.

A former commission member, Horace Harned, now aged 78, said he still supported the spying operation. "Everything's fair in love and war, and they were on the wrong side," he said. "The Communist Party used the civil rights movement to get into the South. We were fighting for self-protection, self-preservation from an alien force."

He added: "They ought to let sleeping dogs lie. You've got to forgive and forget, not open old wounds. This doesn't help race relations a bit."

**Martin Kettle in Washington**

**D**EFENDERS of Bill Clinton were privately delighted yesterday when a California publisher confirmed that the president's latest sexual harassment accuser, Kathleen Willey, had been asking for more than \$300,000 (£180,000) for a book contract in which she would tell her story.

The news, which comes on top of the release of 20 friendly letters written to Mr Clinton by Mrs Willey after an alleged groping incident in 1993, helps to sow doubt in the public's mind about the former White House volunteer's story, and about the reasons for her coming forward at this time.

However the book contract claim also highlights an increasingly controversial aspect of the Monica Lewinsky and Paula Jones "Zippergate" sagas — the immense legal bills which are confronting everyone who is involved, however marginally.

The independent prosecutor, Kenneth Starr, is said to have spent \$40 million on his various investigations into Mr Clinton. He showed again this week, when he flew Ms Lewinsky's college friend, Catherine Davis, from Tokyo to Washington to give evidence, that money is no object in his inquiry.

For his witnesses and victims, though, money is a huge problem. Mrs Willey was already burdened by a \$274,000 debt left by her husband when he committed suicide more than four years ago. She now faces legal fees of more than \$40,000 incurred in the court case in which she was ordered to give evidence to Ms Jones's lawyers and her appearance in front of the Washington grand jury investigating the Lewinsky affair.

A principal figure like Ms Lewinsky will need to find \$250,000 by the time the case is over, her lawyer, William Ginsburg, estimated this week. Ms Lewinsky's father-in-law, said recently: "I don't have the resources for this sort of cost" — leaving the unemployed former White House intern with little alternative but to write a tell-

all memoir to pay for it. Mr Clinton's costs are even greater. In February, Mr Clinton was said to owe his private lawyers, Bob Bennett and David Kendall, about \$3.2 million in fees arising from a succession of legal cases — with a lot more still to come in the Jones case. In addition, last week the White House spokesman, Mike McCurry, said that \$2.4 million of the White House's payroll was taken up in legal staff costs.

The Clintons have little in the way of collateral. Last month they were compelled to launch a new legal defence fund, which some Democrats fear may siphon money away from the party's election funds. Some conspiracy theorists even believe that Mr Starr is a Republican front man who is trying to spend the Democrats into electoral defeat.

**Mr Clinton already owes his private lawyers about \$3.2m in fees, with a lot more to come in the Jones case**

This is one reason why White House aides are so anxious not to be inside the legal loop on the Lewinsky and Jones cases or their spin-offs. Aides like Mr McCurry make a point of not talking to the president about the legal cases, for fear of being slapped with a subpoena by Mr Starr which will cost, on average, about \$10,000 to answer. Another Clinton adviser, Paul Begala, recently said that this meant he had been fined \$10,000 for criticising Mr Starr.

With lawyers in the case charging at least \$350 an hour, there are good days for Washington attorneys. The costs in the various cases underline the remarkable fact that more than 2 per cent of the US gross domestic product is accounted for in tort costs and legal fees.

As Mr Clinton travels round Africa next week, he will visit countries whose annual output is worth significantly less than America's legal bills.

## Peru pursues exiled broadcaster

**Jane Limaco-Diaz in Lima**

**B**ARUCH IVCHER lost his Peruvian citizenship and control of his Lima television channel for broadcasting reports of torture and telephone tapping by Peru's intelligence service.

Now the Peruvian authorities have charged him and his mattress company Colchones Paraíso with customs and tax fraud.

Last week the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights of the Organisation of American States told Peru that it had a case to answer for denying the Israeli-born Mr Ivcher, now in exile in Miami, his property and civil rights.

Last July immigration offi-

cials revoked his Peruvian nationality and as a direct result he lost control of his television channel, because television stations must be majority-owned by Peruvians.

The commission rejected Peru's plea that the case should not be aired in an international forum because Mr Ivcher had yet to exhaust the Peruvian justice system.

It said that unjustifiable delays had subjected Mr Ivcher to serious rights violations and practically irreparable damage.

He should be given back control of all his businesses in Peru while it investigated the case further, the commission added.

In Lima the education minister, Domingo Palerm, said the government was uncon-

cerned about the international body's decision.

The station, Frecuencia Latina, remains under the administrative control of its minority shareholders, the Ivcher brothers, who are close to the government.

Its documentary programmes have abandoned the pugnacious tone of early last year, when it broadcast a series of reports about the intelligence service, SIN.

It revealed that an intelligence agent, Leonor de la Rosa, had been tortured by fellow agents and that the agency was tapping the telephones of dozens of opposition politicians, journalists and MPs.

One of the journalists involved, José Arrieta, fled to the United States two months

ago after police investigating his work alleged that he paid informers to make false accusations. He has since been charged in his absence.

In the fraud case against the Paraiso mattress firm, Mr Ivcher, his brother, and 10 others, including company executives and customs agents, have been charged. Four people have been imprisoned and others are in hiding.

Mr Ivcher's lawyer, Armando Lengua Balbi, said: "All the charges are absurd." The charges were brought by the fiscal police, a little-known force which has not brought any such charges for years.

Mr Lengua Balbi claimed that it was acting on the direct orders of SIN.

## Petrol pumps run dry as oil crisis hits Nigeria

**Alex Duval Smith in Lagos**

**S**OLDIERS used whips to control motorists who queued all day for petrol in Nigeria's biggest city yesterday, a sign of impending economic collapse in the business capital of the world's fifth-largest oil producer.

And two days before a papal visit whose potential impact has been compared to the Pope's Cuban tour in January, there was no sign of the Nigerian leader, General Sani Abacha, extending clemency to 150 of so imprisoned journalists and activists.

As power cuts left hospitals and businesses without electricity, the normally bustling streets of Lagos were clogged with stalled cars and minibuses queuing for petrol at pumps which were either empty or had no electricity to

deliver fuel. Soldiers and police with automatic weapons and whips marshalled the traffic and hit out at thieves siphoning petrol from the tanks of cars stuck in traffic.

"It is like living by the sea and having no water for a bath," said a man who had waited for three hours in a queue of 70 vehicles at a petrol station in central Lagos.

Another man, whose yellow VW minibus was a communal taxi — was stuck in the same queue, said fuel had never been a problem in Lagos.

"The rest of the country has been used to queuing for petrol for a couple of years but to see this in Lagos just shows how useless the government is. Three years ago, a litre of petrol cost 1 naira, now we are paying 11 naira (10p) — when we can get it."

"I am not earning a living while I am standing in this

queue, and that goes for half the vehicles here."

The petrol shortages and electricity cuts are blamed on a breakdown in infrastructure which has left Nigeria with only one of its four oil refineries working and its power stations producing 32 per cent of their normal output.

Last week a promise by the petroleum resources minister, Dan Etete, that all the refineries would be working by September led to riots by student at Kwara State Polytechnic in Ilorin, east of Lagos, furious at the prospect of six months without transport.

Most people blame the refinery breakdown, which has forced the government to import fuel, on a culture of corruption.

They say that maintenance money for the plants was diverted to individuals after the government took responsi-

bility for servicing them out of the hands of the private sector in 1992.

With Nigeria \$19 billion in debt, foreign companies are reluctant to extend credit to repair the main power station, now operating on two of its six turbines. A hydroelectric plant in the north has been out of action for two years.

Gen Abacha has so far failed to produce clear signs that he will restore democracy in October, his declared deadline. At the moment the indications are that he intends to "swap *soja* for *agbada*" (military attire for traditional dress) by making himself civilian leader.

The Nigerian information minister, Ikeobasi Mokelu, has denounced as "immoral" a Washington official's comment that the United States will hold Gen Abacha to his vow to step aside and allow free elections.

## News in brief

## Russia risks tyranny, warns deputy PM

**R**USSIA'S first deputy prime minister, Boris Nemtsov, warned yesterday that the country was in danger of becoming "an authoritarian and semi-military regime".

In an interview with the Moscow weekly, Argumenty a Fakty, the Kremlin's leading reformer condemned Russia's "administrative-oligarchic capitalism, in which a handful of people consider themselves the hub of the universe and the rest live in poverty".

His outburst may be a response to claims by the Kommersant Daily newspaper to have video footage of him dancing naked with prostitutes at the dacha of a leading banker. Mr Nemtsov denies the allegations. — *Tom Whitehouse, Moscow.*

## China hits out on polls

**C**HINA warned against "irresponsible remarks" about the next Hong Kong elections, after a meeting yesterday in which Britain said it wanted to satisfy itself that the May elections were "above suspicion".

The Chinese head of the Sino-British Joint Liaison Group, Wang Gusheng, said in London that the elections for a new legislative council were an internal Chinese matter. "We don't want to see foreign countries make irresponsible remarks towards the first Legco elections," he stressed. — *John Gittings.*

## Militant stays in jail

**A**DRIANO Sofri, the imprisoned former leader of the leftwing Italian group Lotta Continua, had hopes of freedom dashed yesterday when judges rejected a petition for his retrial. He and two other former members of the group were last year given 22-year jail sentences — on the evidence of a lone informer — for the murder, almost a quarter of a century earlier, of police officer Luigi Calabresi.

Their cause has become a focus for civil liberties campaigners

and for a one-man crusade by the Nobel Prize-winning playwright, Dario Fo. Inspector Calabresi was at the centre of events which inspired Fo's most famous play, *Accidental Death Of An Anarchist*. It was from the window of Calabresi's office that the anarchist of the play's title, Pino Pinelli, fell to his death while being interrogated in 1969.

Lawyers for the three jailed men said they would appeal against yesterday's decision to Italy's highest court, the Court of Cassation. — *John Hooper, Rome.*

## Air crash debris found

**R**ESCUE boats have found the wreckage of a Taiwan airliner that vanished from radar two minutes after takeoff yesterday, the TVBS news station reported. The Formosa Airlines plane was carrying eight passengers and five crew. — *Reuters, Taipei.*

## 'Doping doctors' on trial

**I**N THE first criminal case involving doping practices in former East German sports, four coaches and two doctors went on trial in Berlin yesterday on charges of harming young swimmers by giving them performance-enhancing drugs.

Prosecutors say the six defendants gave anabolic steroids to 19 athletes, all minors, telling them the pills were vitamins. The women now suffer from disturbed muscle growth, excessive body hair, or deepened voices. — *AP, Berlin.*

## Korean peace hope

**T**HE Chinese assistant foreign minister, Chen Jian, whose country is chairing four-way Korean peace negotiations in Geneva, said yesterday a "hopeful" middle ground had been found in the tortuous process.

"Now we know what each party wants and what each cannot tolerate," he said. "That leaves some middle ground. To some it might seem too small but to me it is hopeful."

Earlier yesterday, senior North Korean negotiators said they were ready to resume direct talks with South Korea which broke down four years ago. — *Reuters, Geneva.*

## Cambodia peace plan at risk

**Nick Cunningham-Bruce in Bangkok**

**C**AMBODIAN authorities dealt a new blow to an already fragile plan for peace yesterday when a military court found the exiled first prime minister guilty of conspiring with the Khmer Rouge last year to overthrow the government, and sentenced him to 30 years in prison.

The two-day trial, in which the absent Prince Norodom Ranariddh offered no defence, was part of an attempt by his rival Hun Sen, the second prime minister, to discredit him, and halt a diplomatic plan to bring him back to Cambodia to contest elections in July.

Japan, backed by foreign governments, brokered an agreement that, provided certain conditions are met, the prince will be pardoned.

But diplomats fear that a \$33 million fine also imposed yesterday on the prince and his three co-defendants — which they could never afford to pay — might prevent his return, unless it is included in the hoped-for royal pardon.

King Sihanouk has said he will grant the pardon if he receives written consent from Hun Sen and his acting co-prime minister. But neither the consent nor the amnesty is guaranteed.

The Japanese ambassador in Phnom Penh, Masaki Saito, remained confident that "this issue can be solved", but others were not so sure.

"This is a bit of a sting in the tail," a diplomat in Phnom Penh said of the fine. "This was a civil case lumped in with a criminal one. There is no amnesty for civil cases that I know of."

online

Every Thursday in the

The Guardian

INTERNATIONAL



# Comment

## Diary

Emily Barr

**F**OLLOWING his release from solitary confinement after 11 years, there is a sense of triumph among the supporters of Mordechai Vanunu, imprisoned for telling the world about Israeli nuclear weapons. Ernest Rodger, of the Campaign to Free Vanunu, was startled when, upon opening a letter from the prisoner, he was showered with small pieces of paper. "I thought there'd been a wedding in prison and some comfort had got in the envelope," he explains, but closer examination revealed the truth to be more bizarre. Vanunu's letters have always been censored, but in a gesture of clemency, the censor is now cutting out all references to "NWs" (guess) and "kidnapping" as before, and leaving the words loose in the envelope, providing a useful jigsaw puzzle in case the recipient is, himself, in a boring and lonely situation. It is a charming and sensible compromise, and the Diary applauds it.

**D**R Madsen Pirie, the deputy president of the Adam Smith Institute, writes about the budget in the Sun. The libertarian spent the 80s urging Thatcher rightwards, so one might expect some circumspection about Gordon. Not a bit of it. "Tony Blair and Gordon Brown have realised an essential truth," he thunders. "The welfare bill is crippling Britain... The Old Labour rule of vendetta taxes has gone... blah blah blah." He boasts to lefty mag Tribune that the Chancellor incorporated 12 points at the institute's suggestion, and yesterday was answering his phone with the words "Tony Blair Institute". Such enthusiasm is touching, but it is hard to see how this endorsement as entirely in tune with the ideals of his party, we fear he's probably delighted.

**A**MORAL volte-face has occurred at the Independent. The surprise at Channel 5 when an advert they had booked for Tuesday's paper depicting a scantily-clad woman changed, overnight, into a picture of Gerry Adams. "A bikini-clad woman is not befitting our title," was the explanation, particularly, apparently, with Victoria Altkon on the front page. After an unannounced Channel 5 threatened the Indy with no more adverts, however, editors have decided that today's paper will contain the same Channel 5 ad as the Guardian, namely a well-oiled and virtually undressed man with his hands down his trunks.

**T**HERRR was excitement at the Diary yesterday when Clinton's Articles of Impeachment arrived. The slim volume is accompanied by a long letter from Michele McKnew of the Center for American Values who tells us that "This book is my free gift to you" (thanks, Michele), and that she plans to "put a free copy of The Case For Impeachment in the hands of 5,000,000 citizens over the next 60-90 days". We love the book, and tomorrow will do our bit with an extract from "Article I: Communist China penetrates the White House" (But does the White House... no, no, stop it.)

**F**ROM one naughty president, seamlessly, to another, and news of an exhumation. Lovable rogue Richard Nixon died in 1994, you may recall, and is buried in California. This puts his final resting place several thousand miles from that of his staunchest ally, Checkers the cocker spaniel, who died in 1965 and is buried near New York. Dogs Today reports that Nixon's relatives are having the dog dug up and relocated near his master. Thank God.

**B**ILL CLINTON WANTS HIS ADDRESS BOOK. The foreign secretary was always going to annoy the Israeli government by highlighting British and European opposition to the building of settlements on occupied Arab territory. By visiting Jebel Abu Ghneim, which the Israelis call Har Homa and claim as part of greater Jerusalem, he took a pot shot at two very sensitive birds. So the response was doubly furious, with predictably withering cross-fire about Northern Ireland, perfidious Albion, the Pal-



## Mr Blair speaks French: but has he learned the language of Europe?

Hugo Young



**F**EW British leaders have had the gift of tongues. Churchill made a big joke of his execrable French, and the continentals loved him for inflicting it upon them. Ted Heath's fumbling efforts were less appreciated, and Mrs Thatcher, even had she possessed another language, would have regarded its use as a betrayal of national sovereignty. When Prime Minister Blair addresses the French National Assembly on Tuesday, he plans to speak in French, the language in which he conducted a successful TV interview a few days ago. Unless he botches out, it will be a unique performance that signifies everything — or nothing.

For what matters about this speech spreads wider than the forum in which it will, rather amusingly, be delivered: imagine Jacques Chirac being given the floor in the Commons. The language will resonate, but the content is more important. Will this be the speech of a serious European? Or of someone for whom Europe is nothing more than one side of the compass he is always seeking to box? Seen from Europe, his record so far is mixed. He's a great change from John Major, whose weakness was his political respect: less so from Margaret Thatcher, whose style as a powerful British leader telling Europeans how to run their affairs has uneasy echoes now. Blair's youth and energy ripple across the screens to much popular excitement, but further down the brow of the political class who don't like being lectured, especially when their economies are miles more successful, in terms of size and growth, than Britain's.

But there are signs that this is changing. Exuberance has given way to a better acquaintance, on both sides, with the facts. Just as our dreaded Anglo-Saxon economy already sustains a 35-hour week (France's socialist promise, much derided) for many public sector white-collar workers, so the appalling social model, exemplified in Belgium, experimented long ago with the kind of individual work-mentoring, as a route to cracking unemployment, that New Labour now trumpets as if it had come across the unwashed wheel. The truths about these different cultures are far more complex than a bright-eyed soundbite.

The first aim of the French speech, therefore, should be to avoid triumphalist instruction. Downing St seems to understand this, though the words are not yet written. Secondly, the speech has to pick its way through the minefield of transatlantic relations, about which the French feel more sensitive than anyone in Europe. The Blair-Chirac disagreement at the time of the phony Iraq war, like France's stubborn resistance to American trade initiatives, requires delicate handling by the current EU President. Let's hope that here, too, the lecturer keeps his silence, and finds ways of emphasising what France and Britain have in common — which is, in sum, the need, as the most coherent and self-confident historic powers in Europe, to make "Europe" work.

So the third and overarching task is to begin to fill the gap that remains glaringly present nearly a year after Labour came to power. Though the top people routinely aver that they're pro-European, the Government does not yet give the impression that it is virtually impossible to have a conversation with anyone in the environs of this Government without hearing them volunteer their awareness of what really matters. Above all else, I keep being told, the leadership does not want to awaken the anti-European coalition in the media, which is now sleeping the sleep of the virtuous, drugged, among other things, on copious articles they yesterday published by Mr Blair and Mr Brown to supplement their own opinion that the budget was a triumph.

This happy congruence is an undreamed-of blessing for a Labour government. Putting it at risk, by talking positively and in detail about Britain as a European country, is a tricky undertaking. One way of opening the conversation is by enlisting the rest of the union, especially the larger powers, in the modernisation of EU institutions and methods: something that could well start from the rostrum of the National Assembly.

But the prior plunge has to be made, first, and in language the Sun understands rather than the exquisite periods of Racine. It's impossible to be a serious European, while being confined within the agenda of the roaring sceptic press. That's a fact which cannot be manipulated out of existence, even by the most accomplished squarer of circles in modern politics. At some point, it has to be addressed. Until it is, the Europeans, while remaining charitably disposed to Mr Blair, will not believe him. The French will listen, but there will be nothing really to hear.

## Ousting a Muslim

Roy Hattersley



**B**ACK in 1994, Jeff Rooker — now minister of state at the Ministry of Agriculture — told the House of Commons of his suspicions about the way in which Birmingham Council awarded home improvement grants. Newspapers took up the story, hinting that councilors were using the grants to gain support in their battle to inherit the safe Labour seat of Sparkbrook. In a fit of ostentatious piety, Labour's general secretary suspended the local party and, slightly perversely, set up an inquiry to see if it should have been suspended.

The inquiry concluded that there was no case to answer. So did the district auditor and the West Midlands police, who had been invited to investigate "possible corruption". The overall outcome was an operation of the individual councilors and a mild rebuke for the Birmingham City Council which had made an honourable, but unlawful, attempt to ration grants. Although vindicated, the Sparkbrook Labour Party was still forbidden to meet. The charge against it was changed to "membership irregularities".

After almost a year of inactivity "a membership verification process" began — confirming that authoritarianism usually tries to hide itself under bureaucratic language. Not surprisingly a number of names were found not to tally with addresses. In Sparkbrook — part of the Birmingham inner city and home to thousands of Muslims and hundreds of Sikhs — the electoral register is never up to date. Not one case of fraud or "personation" was identified.

VINDICATED a second time, the local party looked forward to resuming normal service. Labour headquarters refused to lift the suspension until Sparkbrook "implemented an action plan that demonstrated its organisational competence". One ward, Fox Hollies, was however allowed to resume business. Fox Hollies is a generally white housing estate. In the three wards which remain suspended, the party membership is largely Muslim and Sikh. Nobody suggests that they are victims of calculated racism. The prejudice is unconscious. The Labour leadership claims to believe in a multi-cultural society. Unfortunately, it is determined to create a one-culture party.

The suspended wards were not allowed to choose a candidate to fight May's local election. The local party in Sparkbrook accepted the indignity with calm resignation, believing that — whatever the selection process — Councillor Raghib Ahsan (who had won the seat in 1991 and been re-elected in 1994) would be nominated again. Had the choice been left to local members, his selection would have been a unanimous tribute to his hard work and popularity. On December 20, 1997, a "selection panel" made up of three nominees of the West Midlands regional Labour Party — none of whom lived in Birmingham — announced that Ahsan was to be replaced by a builder from Fox Hollies. The upshot was immediate and passionate. A petition of local residents attracted 2,000 signatures in a fortnight. Labour headquarters attempted to defuse allegations of racism with the assurance that, in Birmingham, "there is no overall change in numbers of black and Asian candidates as a new Afro-Caribbean candidate was selected... to replace a white councillor". It all goes to show how little the Labour leadership understands ethnic Britain. The minorities may all look the same from the top of Millbank Tower. But different racial groups have different problems and need to be represented by someone who has experienced them.

## How little the Labour leadership understands ethnic Britain

It has to be admitted that, 15 years ago, Ahsan was to be found on the wilder shores of socialism. So were some of the junior ministers who we are told are seen to be elevated to cabinet rank. And no one has explained why one conversion is more acceptable than another. More important, Ahsan has developed a combination of qualities which local politics desperately needs. He remains indisputably Muslim, but is entirely at home in the arcane world of local government. It would be far easier to justify his candidature being imposed on Sparkbrook than to explain away his arbitrary rejection.

Israel huffs and puffs, but this was ethical diplomacy

## Don't get Cook

Ian Black

**I**F DIPLOMACY is about getting your own way by convincing an interlocutor that it is in his interest to accept what you want, then the foreign secretary was always going to annoy the Israeli government by highlighting British and European opposition to the building of settlements on occupied Arab territory. By visiting Jebel Abu Ghneim, which the Israelis call Har Homa and claim as part of greater Jerusalem, he took a pot shot at two very sensitive birds. So the response was doubly furious, with predictably withering cross-fire about Northern Ireland, perfidious Albion, the Pal-

estine Mandate and Cook's spoiling broth. Reactions at home have been disingenuous: criticism from Michael Howard, shadow foreign secretary, and Tory predecessors like Malcolm Rifkind ignores the fact that Cook was reiterating long-standing British policy. Jews taking over Arab land, by purchase, war or confiscation, lies at the heart of a century of conflict and 50 years of inde-

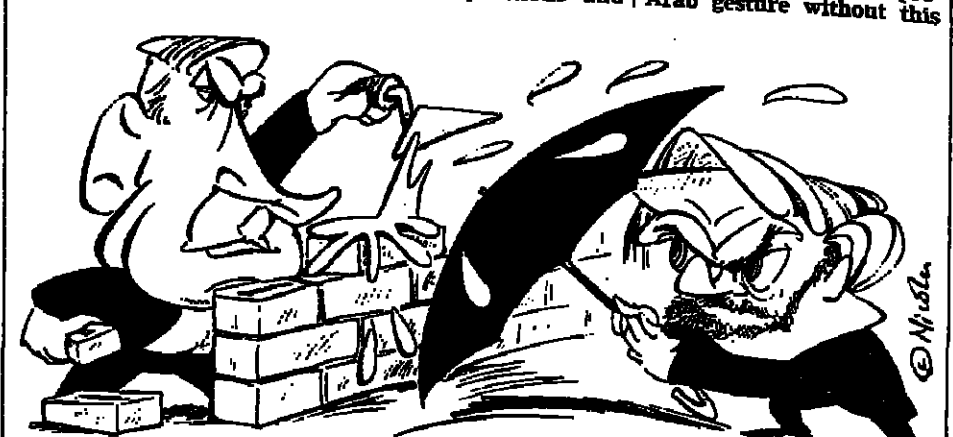
pendent Israel. Benjamin "Bibi" Netanyahu knew this perfectly well when he sent the bulldozers into Har Homa last year as a sop to rightwingers infuriated by his re-deployment from Be-ron under the Oslo Accords. Suggestions that the

Cook visit — and his controversial meeting with a senior Palestinian — was a mistake, or just plain bad manners, flow from the fact that Jerusalem was involved. But Jerusalem is involved because of Israel's unilateral and unrecognised annexation of the eastern half of the city in 1967 and the subsequent expansion of its boundaries deep into the West Bank.

If 1,200 homes are built as planned on the site they will cut off Arab Jerusalem from the patchwork of territory now controlled by the Palestinians but which looks more like a bantustan than an independent state in the making. Netanyahu's was a classic Zionist ploy of creating "facts" on the ground to pre-empt negotiations.

Yet all this is grist to the mill of the people who criticised the foreign secretary for talking privately about Kashmir during the "affair" Queen's visit to India and Pakistan or accused him of double standards

over arms exports to Indonesia. They ignore his toughness over Bosnian war criminals, an unstuffy manner in a stuffy department and an international reputation for achieving results. "Get Cook" may be fashionable — but in this case it is unfair. Israeli settlements are unethical.



Whistleblower  
Jerusalem  
facts start on

Letters to the  
Editor

Tower

David McKie







## 10 OBITUARIES

Basil Coetzee

# Soulful song for freedom

THE South African modern jazz scene of the 1950s and 1960s was a vibrant black subculture. It was nurtured in the shebeens and honky-tonks of the townships, splicing American hard-bop and the subtle, expressive and easy idioms through which rugged urban dance sounds had sprung from folk roots. Largely overlooked by the white-run record labels at the time, this energetic and independent tribe of jazz has lately come to be recognised as one of the music's most exciting non-American incarnations. It produced performers of the stature of Abdullah Ibrahim (Dollar Brand), Hugh Masekela, the late Chris McGregor, Dudu Pukwana and Johnny Dyani — and Basil Coetzee.

Coetzee, a slightly-built saxophonist and flautist from District Six with a hot, impassioned tone and a deep love of his country that infused his music, has died in Cape Town at 54, after a year-long struggle with lung cancer. Like many jazz musicians from his background, there was a thrusty, soulful, gospel-flavoured pungency to his playing, and an urgency that permeated even the most reflective pieces, as if much had to be done in too short a time.

Coetzee's most famous recording led to a midlife nickname "Manenberg" — because of where he had moved to live in the late 1960s, and because of the musical conversation of the same name he had recorded with the pianist Abdullah Ibrahim. This 11-minute instrumental came to be regarded as one of the anthems of the liberation movement in South Africa, and Coetzee began to travel exten-

sively and regularly perform with Ibrahim on the strength of its success. Coetzee took to a stage as a musician for the first time in 1958, at 14, playing the penny-whistle. There was a youth cult for the instrument in the 1950s, because it was cheap, portable, expressive and easy to learn — and its own idiom followed it, "kwela", meaning "step up", the police's admonition to the black population when arresting them and passing them into vans. Like many of his contemporaries, Coetzee taught himself, and his enthusiasm for music extended first to learning drums, then flute and saxophone. He began to be active on the younger South African jazz scene that was extending local musicians' existing interest in American swing into the hard bop style of Art Blakey and Horace Silver, and then on into a lyrical and exploratory form of more freely associative playing close to that of John Coltrane.

As the 1960s began, the regime tightened its grip on the majority population ever more viciously. Travel and free assembly, particularly between races, became so difficult that a collective activity like sustaining a jazz band became almost impossible. Many musicians, including Ibrahim, McGregor, Pukwana and his Blue Notes band, and trumpeter Masekela, went into exile in Europe or the States. But Coetzee decided to stay, working in a Manenberg shoe factory in the daytime, playing eloquent saxophone in the townships at night. In 1974 his path crossed Ibrahim's again, and with other South Africans they recorded a classic album, *Manenberg — Where it's Happening*.

In the 1980s, Coetzee began



Basil Coetzee... one recording became an anthem of South Africa's liberation movement

to lead his own band, Sabenza, and in 1988 toured Europe with it and released an album of the same name — he also helped found a music school, Musical Power for People's Power. For a performer of his characteristic sound and plaintive fire, Coetzee was seriously neglected, like many of the country's jazz players — including the South African Charlie Parker, Kippie Moeketsi — who refused exile. Coetzee was not adopted by the political groupings that he had lent his music and energy to for the years of rallies and

meetings, when they were all in the wilderness together. However Basil Coetzee the younger, one of the musician's four sons, told the South African Sunday Times: "He never stopped believing in what he was doing. He continued to inspire people to make them feel proud. We find that a great comfort." He leaves a wife, Mary, five children, and six grandchildren.

**John Fordham**  
Basil "Manenberg" Coetzee, musician, born February 2, 1944; died March 12, 1998

Sir James Tait

# Engineering a new university for London

IN 1963 the Robbins Report into higher education recommended that the colleges of advanced technology should gain university status. Amongst them was the then Northampton College of Advanced Technology, London, situated just north of the City, whose principal since 1957 had been James Tait.

Knighted in 1969, Tait who has died aged 85, created from the Northampton CAT, London's City University. The obvious course in 1963 would have been to incorporate the college within London University, but Tait saw the potential for a second university, working with the City's industry, commerce and financial institutions.

With Oliver Thompson of Shell, who was chairman of the governing body of the Northampton, Tait conceived a brilliant link, whereby the Lord Mayor of London "for the time being" would ex-officio be the new university's chancellor. In 1965 the City University was born, with uniquely — a chancellor who changes every year and with Tait as vice-chancellor until his retirement in 1974.

Tait led professionally-based engineering education with an enthusiasm for sandwich courses well justified by graduates shaped positively by industrial experience. However, when Britain's industrial base collapsed in the



Tait... strong City links

1970s, his dedication to engineering perhaps slowed City's diversification into the professions which it has now become.

He was a lecturer at what was then the Northampton Polytechnic, between 1947 and 1951. Then, after five years as principal of Woolwich Polytechnic, he moved back to the Northampton as principal in 1957, the year of its recognition as a CAT.

His qualities were those of the engineer — drive and determination, together with the vision to see a project through — which made him highly effective in an era of expansion. He laid the plans for new heavy laboratories which were completed in the 1970s and still provide unique

resources for London engineering education.

The son of an estate gardener in the village of Ochiltree in Ayrshire, he left the village school aged 14 to take up a Kilmarnock apprenticeship. His engineering education began with evening study and its demands developed his qualities of determination and unrelenting ability. A scholarship to Glasgow's Royal Technical College led to a diploma with distinction, then a lectureship. When he left to go south, in 1946, he had his PhD from Glasgow University — and had married Mary Linton.

He never lost either the accent or the characteristic dry humour of his people. He loved outdoor pursuits, especially camping in the hills north of Glasgow, whatever the weather or season. He had a lifelong connection with the scouting movement and he was appointed as scoutmaster to the troop associated with the Presbyterian Church on Richmond Green, near Teddington, where he and his wife had settled. They just missed their diamond wedding. He leaves three children, ten grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

**Adrian Seville**

Sir James Tait, electrical engineer, born March 13, 1912, died February 18, 1998

Jimmy Hagan

# A forward-line at war

JIMMY Hagan, who has died aged 79, was unfortunate that the height of his career as one of the finest inside forwards of his time coincided with the second world war, when an official international matches were played.

This meant that he won only one cap, in a friendly international against Denmark in Copenhagen in 1948, but he did take part in a couple of victory internationals in 1946, against Scotland and France.

Hagan scored the first goal I ever saw in a professional match, in just 50 seconds in January 1942 against Scotland on a frosty pitch at Wembley. With the exception of the blond inside-right, Wilf Mannion, who would be posted abroad with the Green Howards, the England forward-line was exactly that which had come to dominate Scotland and Wales in wartime football. Stanley Matthews was the outside-right, Tommy Lawton the centre-forward, Hagan, small but so quick in mind and movement,

and possessor of an enviable left foot, was the inside-left. England's wartime attack reached its apogee in 1943 when, at Maine Road, Manchester, it defeated Scotland 8-0 with Hagan a dazzling participant.

For much of the war, when "guest" players were allowed, he was part of a bizarrely powerful Aldershot team drawn from members of the Army Physical Training Corps. He was born in Washington, Co Durham, into a footballing family. His father, the somewhat eccentric Alfie Hagan had played inside-forward for Newcastle United. Jimmy, however, was spotted at a very early age and signed as an apprentice by Liverpool, only for them to let him move to Derby County, where he was seen as something of a boy wonder, small, slim and precocious.

He played for Derby between 1935-36, when still a teenager, and in 1938 the club, somewhat surprisingly, let him move to Sheffield United.

He instantly found a regular place in the Blades' Second Division team, which was promoted that season; he made 28 appearances and scored 10 goals. But the war intervened before he could kick a ball again in the First Division, and not until the first postwar season of 1946/47 was he, and his club, able to enjoy the fruits of that promotion, when 33 appearances brought Hagan 14 goals.

He continued to hold a regular team place and after the club slipped down to the Second Division he helped them up again in the 1952/53 season with 37 appearances and 16 goals. Thereafter, although he remained a first choice for another four seasons, he never scored more than eight league goals. His final season with Sheffield United, 1957/58, was truncated, consisting of just four games. Altogether in his league career he played 391 games and scored 123 goals.

He then went into football management, cutting his teeth with Peterborough United, whom he managed to promote after years of endeavour into the Fourth Division. From there he moved upwards to West Bromwich Albion, where the players once rather oddly protested that he was making them train on cold days without wearing their track suit trousers. Nevertheless he built up a promising young team which reached the League Cup Final of 1967. Three years later he was appointed manager of Benfica of Lisbon, with whom he won three Portuguese championships.

As for his international career, after the goal-less draw in Denmark in a much reshuffled England team, he was never able to regain his place, which went to Wilf Mannion, the man who played inside-right to his inside-left, that long-remembered day in January 1942, at Wembley.

**Brian Glanville**

Jimmy Hagan, footballer, born January 21, 1918; died February 28, 1998



Hagan... he was unfortunate to win only one cap for England, because his best years coincided with the war, when no official international matches were played

Anton Rosenberg

# Role-model for Kerouac

ANTON Rosenberg, who has died aged 71, was a painter and pianist competent enough to play after-hours with Charlie Parker, but to those unfamiliar with the early 1950s Greenwich Village scene he is probably more familiar as Julian Alexander, the name Jack Kerouac gave him in *The Subterraneans*.

The crux of Kerouac's autobiographical novel — with the location transferred from New York to San Francisco — is the narrator's ultimately hopeless love affair with a sweet black girl called Marou Fox. She lives in a courtyard on East 11th St known as Paradise Alley — now a vacant lot — which is also inhabited by a group of super-cool hipsters whom Anton Rosenberg had styled "the subterraneans" and Kerouac wished to get to know better. He had already written *On The Road*, about the youth he christened the Beat Generation. Now he wanted to write about the subterraneans.

Rosenberg, "the angel of the subterraneans" he was "hip without being slick, intelligent without being corny, intellectual as hell without being pretentious or talking too much about it". If Rosenberg in life failed to make enough of either of his artistic talents, it was perhaps because of another characteristic of the post-war hipster: he was a drug addict and

remained so for most of his life. "Julien takes junk whenever he can," states the Ginsberg character, Adam Moored, in the novel.

Like many white hipsters of the early 1950s who, in Norman Mailer's phrase, fitted "the black man's facts", Rosenberg was intended by his family to enter a quite different world. He was Brooklyn-born, an industrialist's son. After a year in the army, he studied at the University

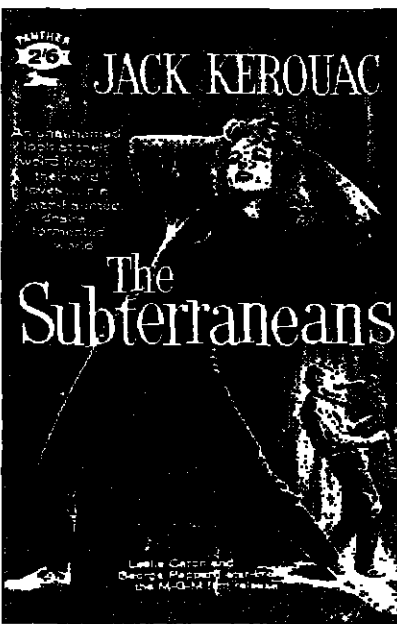
of North Carolina, then spent a year in the late 1940s in Paris on the GI bill "studying art". Paris contained its own subterranean crowd — including James Baldwin, Terry Southern and Mason Hoffman — and Rosenberg spent more time with them, studying at the Left Bank's twin universities, the Café de Flore and the Deux Magots.

Back in New York in 1950, he opened a Christopher

Street print shop and stepped back into the Village scene, centred on bars which are now part of Beat mythology, the San Remo and the Kettle of Fish. The subterraneans proved their extra-hipness by shifting themselves to different bars — the San Remo was even then becoming a tourist attraction — listening to harder jazz, reading harder books — they "know all about Pound", says someone admiringly in *The Subterraneans* — and using harder drugs.

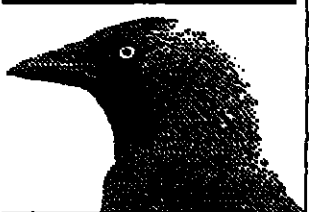
Rosenberg was eventually forced to close his print shop but his wife Joan, a school teacher, supported them and their three sons, while Rosenberg continued to paint and play music. They lived in Woodstock, NY. When Kerouac finished the novel in 1958 (it would not be published for another five years), he showed it to "Marou" (whose real name was Alene Lee) and Rosenberg. Both, he told Ginsberg in a letter to close his print shop but his wife Joan, a school teacher, supported them and their three sons, while Rosenberg continued to paint and play music. They lived in Woodstock, NY.

**James Campbell**  
Anton Rosenberg, painter and pianist, born 1926, died February 14, 1998



Harder jazz, harder books... Anton Rosenberg was a key member of the group of super-cool hipsters who Kerouac described in his novel *The Subterraneans*

Jackdaw



Sly Smokin'

**CIGAR Aficionado:** Do you have a metaphor for what a cigar is? Stallone: I guess you could say that a good cigar is a magic carpet ride. It really transports you to another realm of consciousness where, when a cigar is good and the conversation is good, you are now into a heightened sense of awareness.

You are as close as you can get to an altered state without drugs as possible, I believe. I believe that a good cigar, a glass of wine and good conversation is as close to euphoria as you can get in a legal sense.

**Race relations I**

RACE is something which shouldn't matter, but which has mattered and therefore has been a matter. In a world unconstantly by injustice, we could regard heritable differences in skin pigments

**Race relations II**

"IT'S about fusing a crew together," says Oxford coach Dan Topolski. "In the end, success comes down to mental strength and focus of character. Winning the Boat Race is about keeping calm

**Jackdaw wants jewels.** E-mail jackdaw@guardian.co.uk; fax 0171-713 4366; write Jackdaw, The Guardian, 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER.

**Hannah Pool**

A Country Diary

**HAMSTERLY FOREST,** COUNTY DURHAM. As we walked down into the valley we could hear the trickle of meltwater in the snow-filled drainage ditches growing steadily louder. Small waterfalls sprang from water-courses that had been dry all winter. And when we reached the bridge over Beal Burn, swollen by the discharge from hundreds of feeder streams and ditches — our voices were drowned by brown, foam-flecked floodwater that swirled under our feet. The sudden overnight thaw had released energy and drama into a landscape that 24 hours earlier had been smothered under a white blanket. Now the frost was under the spotlight of sun breaking through clouds. Silvery pussy willow catkins were highlighted against a backdrop of dark green western hemlock needles. A carpet of fresh green wood sorrel leaves pushing up through brown pine needles shone in patches of sunlight on the floor of a Scots

pine plantation. Across the valley, deciduous trees were tinted with the first hints of spring colour, where pent-up leaves had begun to force apart clenched bud scales — a suggestion of purple in alder crowns, a pale chestnut tint in the branch tips of birches. Further advanced were larch shoots. Some twigs were already decorated with yellow, pineapple-shaped male cones, waiting to release clouds of pollen on the first warm still day. Next to them, the scales of carmine female cones — at this stage no bigger than a hawthorn berry — were still tightly closed. In the most sheltered places the first small clusters of larch needles were pushing up through green shaggy bushes — were beginning to sprout from woody pegs on branches. There was little sign that the sudden cold snap had done much damage except perhaps, to some brown and withered alder catkins. We still seem to be on course for an early spring.

**PHIL GATES**

## CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

IN A REPORT on Page 7, March 17, we mistakenly referred to the Foreign Office's international research department. We should have said information research.

A PHOTOGRAPH which went through all editions in black and white, Page 10, March 16, was captioned: An all-male cast, including Gary Boyce (in red), tackles the Three Sisters in an operatic version of Chekhov's play. He was the one in the centre of the picture.

A CAPTION on Page 11, Sport, March 16, referred to "a unique formation of neap tide waves" which "rush in with each full moon". Neap tides occur at the first and last quarters of the moon, not full moon. Spring tides occur at full moon (and at or just after new moon).

**tor, Ian Mayes, by telephoning 0171 239 5529 between 11am and 5pm, Monday to Friday. Fax: 0171 239 5897. E-mail: reader@guardian.co.uk**

## Death Notices

**HORNER, Carol,** daughter of Pat and John Horner and sister of Rosalind, died suddenly in Birmingham on Sunday 15th March.

## Memorial Services

**SELDON, Jon** — poet. There will be a memorial service for Jon Seldon, 1920-1997 and celebration of his life, on Thursday April 23rd, in the library hall, Holborn. Enquiries to 01767 374024.

## Births

**WOODMAN, To** Kathryn Wood and Richard Pennington, a son, Thomas Morgan, on March 14th at 4.10pm. A brother for Madeleine. "Come to my arms, my beautiful boy On frosty days Calliope" Cathy!

**WTO** Please your advertisement telephone 0171 713 4367 or 0171 713 4728 between 9am and 5pm Mon-Fri.

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# Analysis Duty free

## Last orders

Next year Europe intends to kill duty-free shopping. But as the deadline draws closer, it is being forced to think again. Can it stand up to the lobbies? By **Stephen Bates** and **Keith Harper**

**A**NXIOUS to evade those post-Budget tax hikes on alcohol and cigarettes by hopping over to Europe for some duty-free? Be quick. The European Union is planning to end them in just over 15 months' time.

Although plans to abolish duty and tax-free sales within Europe have been around since 1991, only now is the prospect beginning to stir the spirits of the travelling public, and through them their politicians. An extraordinary, and expensive, lobbying campaign has been conducted by an alliance of transport trade unions, ferry companies, port operators, airlines and airports. Suddenly July 1, 1999, the day duty free is supposed to end for travellers within Europe, does not seem such a bright new dawn after all.

For duty free is now a huge industry with sales worth £12 billion a year worldwide, £4.6 billion within Europe, and £1 billion in Britain alone. According to the industry's lobby group, it employs 140,000 people in the EU, a third of whose jobs might soon be lost. Despite its dire warnings, the industry is doing nicely. EU duty-free sales are up from £2.4 billion in 1991. Furthermore, 83 per cent of the products sold worldwide in duty-free shops are manufactured within the EU.

Although the ban will not affect travellers coming into member states from outside, it will bring turmoil to a series of flourishing and profitable little markets: the ferries between Britain, France, Ireland, Scandinavia and Germany, as well as some of the smaller airlines and regional airports. No wonder the industry says it has spent more than a million pounds lobbying the EU recently (certainly an underestimate).

The lobbying seems to be having some effect. Helmut Kohl, who will need every vote he can get in the German elections in September, is said to be alarmed — especially since his chief opponent, Gerhard Schröder, has just come out in favour of a review of the ban. Lionel Jospin has also commissioned a study of the possible effects in France. Scandinavian governments are becoming nervous. Ireland, which

founded duty free at Shannon Airport in 1947, is lobbying hard against abolition. And, in one of the lesser-known spats in the British government, John Prescott, the former seaman whose environment brief includes transport matters, has said he personally would like to see the whole issue of duty free abolition reopened. Yet on March 9, at a European finance ministers' council press conference, Gordon Brown dismissed any prospect of that happening.

Nevertheless, in a little-noticed decision on Budget Day, EU transport ministers meeting in Brussels voted to commission a study into the possible effects of abolition. Nine of the 15 voted for the review, including Glenda Jackson. A paper presented by Mary O'Rourke, the Irish transport minister, stated: "The public will find it very difficult to understand our apparent willingness to allow so many thousands of jobs in the duty-free industry to disappear without very careful consideration of all the facts."

**I**T IS extraordinary that the issue is being reopened now, eight years after the decision was taken and only a year before it is due to come into force. This has stirred outrage in the European Commission, which originally proposed abolition and has consistently refused to look at the matter again. So extraordinary in fact that it may not get any further. The task of bearing the ministers' wish falls to the British transport minister, Gavin Strang, who holds the chairmanship of the EU transport council by virtue of Britain's current presidency. He will carry the unwelcome news to Gordon Brown, who chairs the finance ministers' council and will now, doubtless with some annoyance, have to put it on the May agenda.

Yet behind the scenes in Britain, the political barometer has for some time been moving against the abolition of duty and tax-free shopping. It has been largely prompted by a spontaneous public groundswell which has caught the attention of politicians such as John Prescott, who also has strong links with the

transport unions. A petition, with between 85,000 and 90,000 signatures has just been handed in to Parliament. The public likes its holidays, and more particularly the opportunity of spending a day out on a Dover-Calais ferry, stocking up in the duty-free shop for a £1 trip. It is even more upset when it is told by the duty-free campaigners that the price of travel costs between member states may increase by £14 if the EU gets its way.

**A** TELLING ploy by campaigners has been to deploy the threat of potential job losses. The removal of duty-free outlets, they claim, will cost up to 20,000 jobs, not only on ferries, but at the Channel Tunnel, airports and other outlets. Serious economists, like Doug McWilliams, former adviser to the CBI, have warned of bad times ahead.

The message has clearly reached Prescott. He appears to have convinced his other transport colleagues, Gavin Strang and Glenda Jackson, who have helped to swing European transport ministers in favour of a review. Prescott still has to work on the Chancellor, but Treasury sources say there are no fiscal reasons for Brown to oppose it.

But the campaign against abolition still faces obstacles. All 15 finance ministers would have to agree to commission the new study. And if that study threw up compelling reasons to delay or abort abolition, they would eventually have to vote unanimously in favour of that too.

Nevertheless, the transport ministers' decision is causing a grin to spread across the face of one John Hume: not the SDLP leader, but the man charged with wallpapering the offices of Brussels with copious faxes on behalf of the International Duty Free Confederation. "It is a very substantial change of heart," he says. "As we get closer to the day of abolition, minds are clearly being concentrated."

The IDFC's campaign, and that of its sister organisations in the 15 member states, heavily emphasises the potential cost in jobs, rather than the cost in profits, to its members. It says that when the EU is supposed to be cutting unemploy-

ment, it should not be actively destroying one sector of Europe's economy. It also claims that duty free offers an international showcase for European products, helps keep ferry down and enables investment in better airports and new ships and planes — although how far these would really be affected by the ending of duty free is open to debate. John Hume reels off statistics funded by his employers claiming that half of local airports will have to close and that most long-haul ferry services will no longer be viable. KLM UK is already making a quarter of its cabin crews redundant, and one German ferry company is shutting down. "All the evidence is that if you take duty free out of the equation at ports and airports, people will not spend money," he says. "Some Scandinavian ferry companies will lose 70 per cent of their revenues."

The ferocity of the campaign appears to have put Mario

Monti, the Italian former economics professor who is the commissioner in charge of taxation policy on the defensive.

The commission has long refused to reopen the debate it thought it had won in 1991. Duty free was to be abolished as an anomaly in the EU's single market, it points out. The single market is supposed to preclude different excise and tax rates between member states, or unfair competitive advantages. Just as you cannot buy duty free when travelling from London to Manchester, why should you be able to if you catch a plane from London to Paris — particularly as you cannot do so if you go there by train or bus?

The duty-free lobby responds that abolition would be all very well if there was indeed harmony of VAT and excise duties, but that is not yet the case. Nor is there any immediate prospect of it happening. It adds that the commission has not made any progress in securing agreement

on how the tangle that will follow duty-free abolition will be sorted out. When you catch a ferry from, say, Plymouth to Santander, you pass through three national duty areas: Britain, France and Spain, plus international waters. Where should you pay duty?

**M**ONTI retorts that, although the commission originally hoped to phase in abolition in 1993, member states voted for a delay until 1999. The industry has therefore had more than seven years to prepare. Instead of doing that, it has been using its increasing profits to lobby against any change at all.

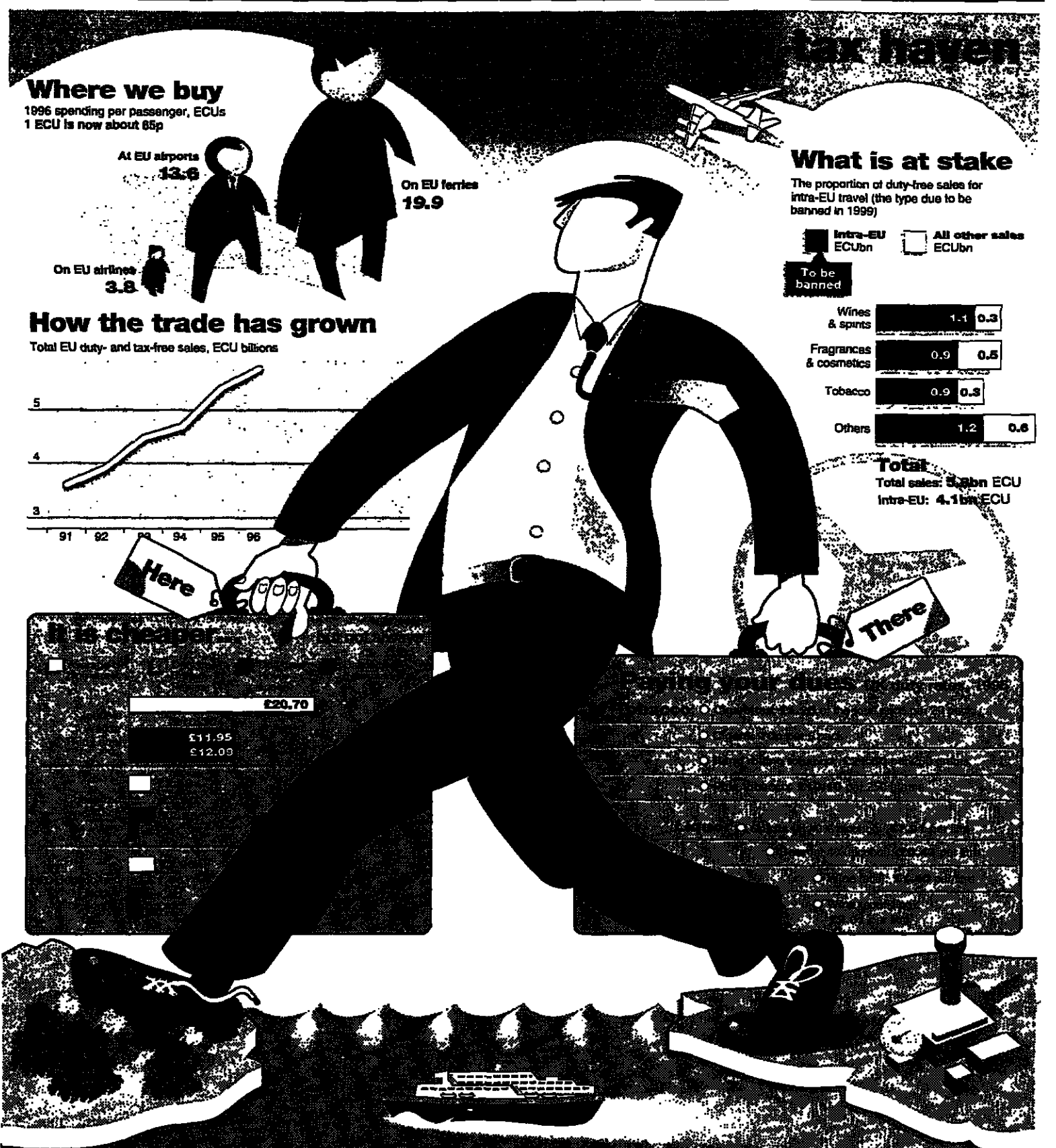
The commission believes duty free is something of a con. It points out that many goods could be bought cheaper elsewhere, that consumers have the choice to buy goods wherever they want in the EU, and that people are being

induced to buy more tobacco and alcohol despite health concerns. Monti declared in exasperation a few months ago: "Seldom in the history of the EU has so much money and time been spent by such a wide coalition of interests. The duty-free lobbying budgets are enormous... In this case the decision is not going to be changed, even if the budgets were increased to infinity."

The time has come, he believes, for the airlines, airports and ferry operators, as well as suppliers of tobacco and alcohol products, to find other ways to invest their money. "The truth is that all taxpayers are bearing the burden of a massive subsidy to certain sections of the travel industry which benefit a few regular travellers. The benefits of cross-border shopping and broader single-market gains will always far outweigh a single bottle of spirits and 200 cigarettes from a duty-free shop."

It looks as if Commissioner Monti is about to find out whether, as far as Europe's politicians are concerned, it still does.

Sources: (1) The Duty Free Confederation; (2) Statement at the European Parliament, Strasbourg, February 17, 1998; (3) Note SN 2115/98 to council meeting, March 17, 1998, from Irish Delegation. Graphics sources: Duty Free Confederation; Holiday Which?, autumn 1997 (Consumers' Association); European Travel Research Foundation; European Commission (particularly memo 97/82 from DG XXII); The Impact on UK Public Finances of the Abolition of Intra-EU Duty and Tax Free (National Economic Research Associates, March 1997). Graphics: Paddy Allen; Finbar Sheehy, Steve Villiers. Research: Mark Espiner; Jane Critchley. Stephen Bates is the Guardian's European affairs editor; Keith Harper is transport editor.



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# FinanceGuardian

## Bill Gates and BT in TV coup

Simon Beavis  
Media Business Editor

**B**ILL GATES yesterday stole an important march in the race to provide internet-based television to British viewers when he teamed up with BT to start trials of his Microsoft WebTV service across the country.

It could lead to a commercial service by the end of the year or in early 1999.

Although both sides stressed that their relationship was not exclusive and had been set up solely for the purpose of running the trials, the deal immediately set alarm bells ringing with competition watchdogs. A spokesman for Ofcom, the telecoms regulator, said: "We always have concerns when two players with a huge degree of market power get together. We will be watching this very closely."

Face Microtechnology and Philips — two makers of digital TV set-top boxes — will also be involved in the trials. But Microsoft and BT both said that they were continuing to talk to many of the main players in broadcasting about possible partnerships and deals.

With Britain racing towards the digital TV ser-

vice on three platforms — satellite, terrestrial and cable — this autumn, Microsoft made it clear that it saw the UK as a key market for its TV software technology.

Steve Perlman, president of WebTV Networks, said the UK was at the forefront of the move to digital television.

All digital TV players intend to offer Internet and interactive TV as part of their multi-channel pay-TV offerings in the new era.

But the WebTV technology will allow viewers to stick with analogue television yet be able to surf the net and have access to e-mail and en-

hanced TV viewing where broadcasters can link programmes to special information packages on the Internet.

The deal comes as Microsoft and BT are at loggerheads with competition authorities in the US and Europe over their plans to expand Internet services.

Microsoft is facing a US Justice Department investigation into alleged anti-competitive behaviour in the Internet browser market and BT's joint venture with BSkyB — British Interactive Broadcasting — is being delayed by the European Commission.

BT yesterday denied that the venture with Microsoft jeopardised its involvement in BTB or indicated that it expected to be thrown out of the venture by the European Commission.

In the US, some 60 per cent of WebTV's 300,000 subscribers do not have a personal computer — the most usual path to the Web. WebTV offers two different boxes: one at \$199 (£177) allows basic Internet access, while a more powerful box costing \$299, includes enhanced TV and a sophisticated electronic programme guide.

Keith Todd, said: "Yesterday ICL executives indicated that the decision to return to the stock market had been a mutual one between the UK company and its Japanese owners. Fujitsu had no plans to reduce its holding below 51 per cent, they said."

## ICL back in the black for first time in three years

ICL, once the flagship of Britain's computer industry, yesterday returned to profit for the first time since 1994, boosting its plans for a stock market return in the year 2000, writes Mark Milner.

Between 25 per cent and 49 per cent of ICL will be offered for sale, with the Japanese group Fujitsu cutting its stake, perhaps to as low as 51 per cent. Canada's Nortel, which owns the balance, is tipped to sell its 10 per cent stake at flotation. The sale is expected to value ICL at \$2 billion.

ICL was listed on the stock market until 1984 when it was taken over by the telecoms group, STC. Six years later an 80 per cent stake in ICL was sold to Fujitsu for \$200 million. ICL had planned to come back to the stock market next year but in January it put back the flotation for another 12 months, in part

because it wanted to build up a good track record of earnings growth and partly because it did not want the move to become embroiled in the Millennium bug issue.

Yesterday ICL, which in recent years has converted itself from a computer manufacturer into a sys-

tems and services manufacturer, announced pre-tax profits last year of £20 million after losses of £2.5 million in 1996 and £188.3 million in 1995.

"The new ICL has come of age. We are heavily involved in a whole new range of new products related to the network-

## Tesco faces trying time seeking conversion on Wigan's sacred turf

Sponsorship deal is latest manoeuvre in rugby league clash, writes Andy Wilson

**W**HAT are the most unpopular words in Wigan? Probably "Tesco". The rugby league club's local rivals from across the East Lancs Road. Perhaps "rugby union". But high on the list would be "Tesco".

The supermarket chain has been demonised in the town since agreeing a deal to build a new store on the rugby ground, Central Park, in March last year.

To Tesco it probably seemed a straightforward deal: the rugby club had horrendous debts and needed the sale money

(initially £8.75 million), while the site is, as its name suggests, near the middle of town and ideal for a supermarket.

Tesco had no idea of the minefield into which it was stepping.

Central Park was formerly known as Joe Hill's Field and before that was the site of the Civil War-vintage Battle of Wigan Lane, when the nearby River Douglas "flowed with blood". Since 1902 it has been home to the rugby league club, the most famous and successful in England, possibly the world, and the town's pride and joy.

It has witnessed hundreds of great matches; the ashes of legendary players such as Jim Sullivan have been scattered on it. Now Tesco would have aisles built and trolleys

pushed over the sacred turf. But that was not the end of the problems. Tesco also intruded on a bitter personal battle between Jack Robinson, the Wigan chairman, and Dave Whelan.

Even for non-Wiganers, Mr Whelan's name might ring a bell. He was an association football full-back for Blackburn Rovers, broke his leg in the 1960 FA Cup final, and when he retired in 1971, he opened a stall on Wigan market selling toiletries.

Within a few years the stall

had become a grocery chain which he sold for £1.5 million. In 1978 he bought JJB Sports, a single shop in Wigan. Having floated in 1984, JJB now is worth about £540 million and Mr Whelan's personal stake is valued at around £120 million.

Although football was his first love and he has owned Wigan Athletic FC for three years, Mr Whelan is no novice to rugby league. He was Wigan's major sponsor in the early 1980s, when they were beginning to dominate the British game.

But by 1985 Wigan had stumbled into financial crisis.

The club seemed to lurch deeper and deeper into trouble.

By then, Mr Whelan was back on the scene.

At first he opposed Mr Robinson's suggestions that Wigan should sell Central Park and move in with Bolton Wanderers at the new Reebok Stadium, but last March the deed was done, to Wigan supporters' fury.

"The atmosphere was volatile towards Jack Robinson for doing the deal, but also towards Tesco," recalls Ernie Benbow, who led one of several groups fighting to save Central Park.

That is the reason behind two events in the town today.

First, at a Central Park press conference, a sponsorship deal additional to the ground sale will be announced. It will be Tesco's first big commercial sports sponsorship, and the PR company it has

engaged promises "a big gun from the City" to make the announcement. A five-year, £3.25 million deal has been mentioned.

Tonight, at the Warrington Country Club (owned, incidentally, by Mr Whelan), Tesco stages a gala dinner to celebrate the sponsorship and set up a Wigan Hall of Fame.

This will be sited at Robin Park, the 25,000 all-seater stadium which Whelan is developing for both the rugby and football teams.

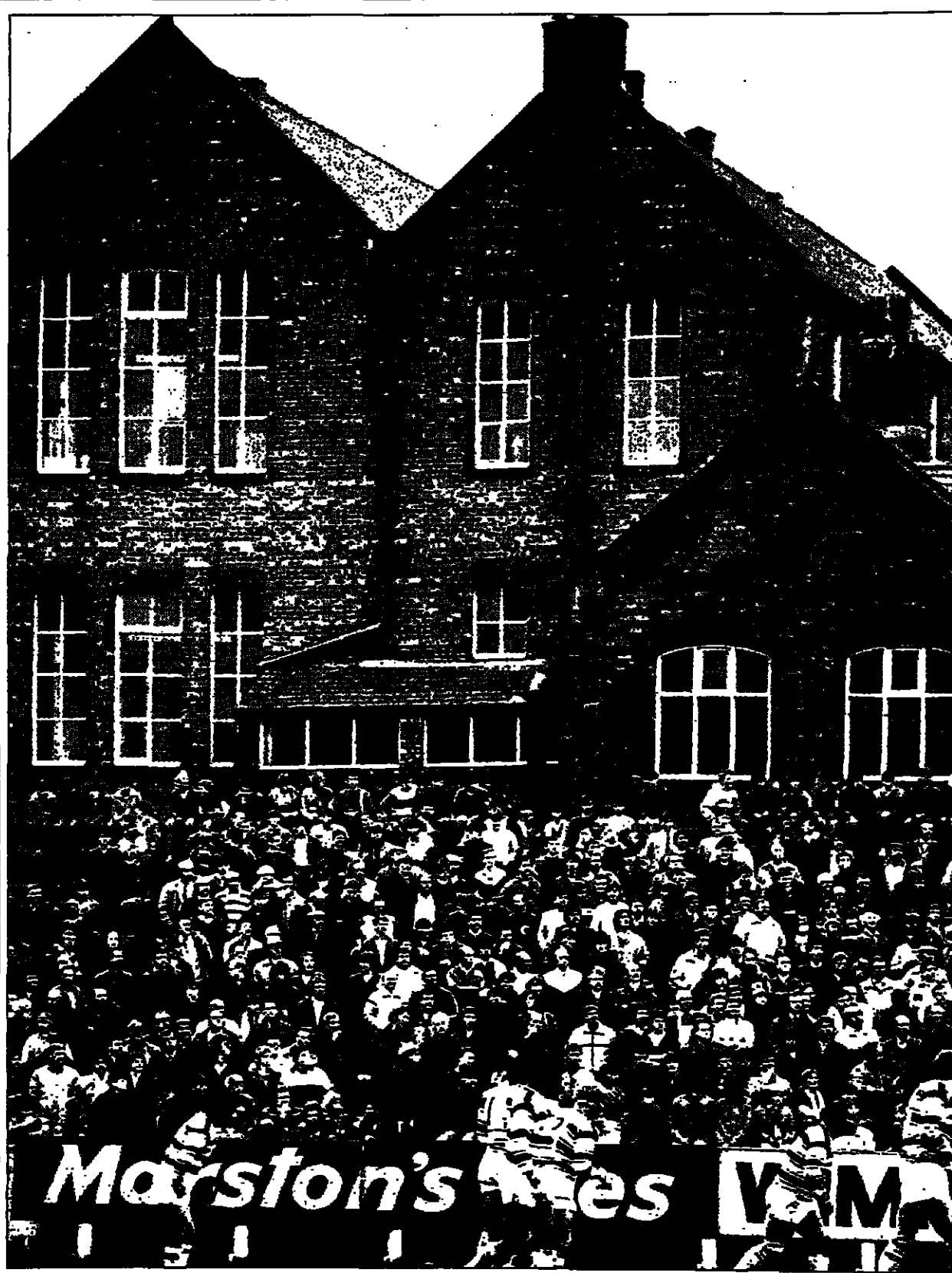
As chairman, Mr Robinson insisted that Wigan would never play there. However, last autumn Mr Whelan bought the majority of the directors' stock in the club and on March 7 his takeover offer was accepted by the other shareholders.

To nobody's great surprise, he has ended up with exactly what he wanted. Tesco is still awaiting planning permission to build on Central Park, and Mr Benbow warns: "They're going to have their work cut out changing public opinion."

But at least Tesco now has Mr Whelan on its side.

Roger Cowe adds: With supermarket firms prepared to pay more than £20 million for the right development site, football clubs have often been tempted by big sums.

Leading stores chains have previously avoided close ties with any individual club, however, on the grounds that they are national businesses and do not want to alienate



Glory days... dominant Wigan take the field at Central Park in 1986, and eight years on in the dressing room celebrate a 20-6 victory over Castleford in the Silk Cut Challenge Cup semi-final



MAIN PHOTOGRAPH: EAMONN MCCABE

## Woolworths firm sets store by home shopping

Roger Cowe

**K**INGFISHER chief executive Sir Geoffrey Mulcahy yesterday signalled a drive into home shopping for the B&Q, Comet and Woolworths group, as well as ambitions for further expansion in retailing on the Continent.

He said that Woolworths was to post catalogues to 8 million customers, following a successful trial with the store's Christmas catalogues.

This is part of a group-wide initiative to capitalise on opportunities opened up by telecoms and computing technology. The group inaugurated its first website earlier this year, for the music distribution operation, Entertainment Express.

Elsewhere in Kingfisher, B&Q, the do-it-yourself retailer, has reorganised its kitchen operation with a centralised call centre to provide better service to kitchen buyers.

Sir Geoffrey said yesterday that Kingfisher was moving

cautiously but saw home shopping as a significant business opportunity.

"The greatest potential for selling more is with people who are already customers. And home shopping allows us to extend our range," Sir Geoffrey said.

He was speaking after announcing a record year in 1997. Profits grew by a third to £530 million after a 10 per cent increase took sales above £6 billion.

All of the group's formats reported higher sales. Profits fell at Superdrug because of investment in new stores and a new store design. Profits of the French company, Darty, fell in sterling terms because of the strong pound. All the other subsidiaries reported strong profit growth, with B&Q contributing £161 million, an increase of 17 per cent.

Sir Geoffrey said he believed retailing was becoming more international and he was keen to expand Kingfisher's electrical business, which is established in France, Belgium and Holland.

## News in brief

### Thomson Travel to join market in May

BRITAIN'S largest tour operator Thomson Travel, which includes Thomson Holidays, Britannia Airways, Lunar Poly, Holiday Cottages, and Thomson International is to be floated on the London Stock Exchange in May.

Analysts estimate the stand-alone company is likely to be worth about £1.3 billion. The shares are to be offered to institutional investors, with 10 per cent available for small investors who will be given incentives. The Thomson family has the option of buying a 20 per cent stake. Thomson employees will also be able to apply for shares on a preferential basis.

Canadian owner Thomson Corporation reported net earnings of \$636 million (£221 million) last year, compared with \$413 million a year before. Pre-tax profits at Thomson Travel were £112.4 million, up from £81.9 million. — Pauline Springett

### Farm workers' pay deal

ONE hundred thousand farm workers will get a below-inflation pay rise of 3.25 per cent this year, giving them a new hourly rate of £4.26, the Agricultural Wages Board decided yesterday.

The tripartite board — made up of the National Farmers' Union, the Transport and General Workers' Union and Government-appointed "independents" — also agreed to increase casual workers' wages by 5 per cent, taking hourly rates to £3.21.

Given the state of the industry and other current settlements — such as the 3 per cent deal for local government workers — TGVU national officer Barry Leathwood said the increases were "something of an achievement", but added that many low-paid workers were working for "wealthy landowners who can afford more than the poverty rate". — Seamus Milne

### Energy suitors go to war

THE gloves came off yesterday in the fight between the two US companies competing to win control of Eastern Electricity, the electricity company that includes Eastern Electric.

PacificCorp, the original suitor, last night demanded that Texas Utilities be referred for scrutiny to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. PacificCorp had earlier this month found itself out-

bid when its Dallas-based rival topped the Oregon-based company's \$4.35 billion or 820p a share bid with an offer of \$4.5 billion or 840p a share. — Celia Weston

### Smiths' Airbus breakthrough

SMITHS Industries, the aerospace and medical systems group, finally secured a breakthrough yesterday in a long battle to supply components to Airbus, the European aircraft maker. It is teaming up with French firm Sextant, the main Airbus avionics supplier jointly owned by Thomson-CSF and Aerospaciale, to provide flight navigation systems for the A320 narrow-body and A330-340 wide-body planes. — David Gau

### TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS

Australia 2.448	Germany 2.271	Malaysia 6.485	Singapore 2.28
Austria 20.87	Greece 527.41	Mexico 0.844	South Africa 5.10
Belgium 61.23	Hong Kong 12.80	Netherlands 2.334	Spain 250.36
Canada 2.316	India 86.012	New Zealand 3.98	Sweden 13.05
Cyprus 0.868	Ireland 1.184	Norway 12.40	Switzerland 2.412
Denmark 11.38	Israel 5.871	Portugal 303.00	Turkey 378.250
Finland 9.09	Italy 1.857	Saudi Arabia 6.17	USA 1.857
France 9.923			

Sourced by Reuters (excluding rupee, shilling and malay)

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The Guardian Thursday March 19 1998

## Cheltenham Hoodoo is laid by One Man

Chris Hawkins

ONE MAN finally laid his Cheltenham hoodoo when jumping his way to glory in the Queen Mother Champion Chase yesterday, answering once and for all the question about whether he is man or mouse.

Perversely throughout an illustrious career which has seen him win a Hennessey Gold Cup and two King George VI Chases the critics have been on his back; yesterday Brian Harding took their place and in the most exhilarating ride of his career partnered the spring-heeled grey to a famous victory.

For One Man it was an example of his true talents. For Harding it was the pot of gold at the end of a rainbow; the silver lining to dark clouds that had threatened his career.

For a year Harding was unable to ride because of a brain injury but the fates which had conspired against him transferred their attentions on Tuesday to Tony Dobbin, the jockey due to ride One Man. Dobbin broke his thumb in a fall and Harding, riding at Sedgfield, took a phone call to say that he should not foot it down to Cheltenham.

Harding had ridden One Man in a lot of his work on Gordon Richards's Penrith gallops and knew that when this jumper saw a fence was, in the words of the jockey, "fairly rapid".

His opponents here soon knew just what that meant. Only Ask Tom could match strides with One Man as he flew fence after fence. Turning for home he had it sewn up and all that was between him and victory was the daunting Cheltenham hill — the one that in two Gold Cups he had failed to come up, prompting slanderous suggestions about his enthusiasm.

This time, however, running over two miles instead of three and a quarter there was enough petrol in the tank for him to get home four lengths clear of Or Royal.

"One Man went as we expected — he was travelling but never running away," said Harding.

John Hales, the toy-manufacturing owner whose rotundity matches the Teletubbies out of which he has made a fresh fortune, was breathless with relief that his decision to come back to Cheltenham with the Man had been vindicated. "This is the pinnacle of his career and mine," said Hales. "What more does he have to do? He deserves his place in racing history."

After Viking Flagship had finished fifth, the trainer David Nicholson announced the retirement of his gallant 11-year-old winner of the Champion Chase in 1994 and 1996.



Making his benchmark... Newcastle's teenage fly-half Jon Wilkinson goes through his paces in England training

Five Nations: Robert Armstrong reports on England's hard choice

## Ryan recalled to arms

DEAN RYAN makes an unexpected return to international rugby on Sunday, six years after winning his third cap. The 32-year-old Newcastle captain and No. 9 has been recalled by England for the Calcutta Cup match against Scotland at Murrayfield, an occasion that should suit his personality to a T.

With a club reputation as the forward opposition, supporters love to hate, the abrasive Ryan has become a cult figure in the English game. His addition to an already hard-edged England pack should guarantee a far from peaceful Sabbath for Scottish players and fans alike.

Ryan's appearance alongside his clubmate Garath Archer not only doubles the Newcastle contingent in the England line-up but also re-establishes the link with Lawrence Dallaglio, his former back-row partner at Wasps.

England have made four injury-enforced changes to the side that hammered Wales 60-26 at Twickenham last

month. Adebayo Adebayo replaces David Rees (groin) on the wing, Matt Dawson comes in for Ryan Bracken (shoulder) at scrum-half, Darren Garforth takes over from Phil Vickery (shoulder) at prop and Ryan gets his chance because a back operation has ruled Richard Hill out for the rest of the season.

John Mitchell, the New Zealander who coaches England's forwards, believes Ryan's physical edge will make the back a more challenging unit in the style of the All Blacks.

"Dean plays a very direct and simple game," Mitchell said. "We have talked for a long time about the right balance for the back row. Dean has abundant talent and he will suit our game plan."

Ryan, who last played for England in the win against Canada at Wembley in 1992, said he had not expected to make an international comeback. "When the call came from Clive Woodward, international rugby was not something I thought I'd be playing a part in," he said.

Dallaglio, the England captain, welcomed the chance to participate in a back row that includes the specialist No. 8. "I learned a lot from Dean at Wasps. He is very talented, provides physical presence and has more footballing ability than he is sometimes given credit for."

Adebayo, who will win his sixth cap, has been recalled partly because his "club rugby has been very good", said Woodward.

## Gibbs injury multiplies Welsh problems in centre

AS SHOULDER injury yesterday forced Scott Gibbs to withdraw from the Wales side for Saturday's Five Nations match with Ireland in Dublin.

The Swansea centre made his decision after a private training session. Leigh Davies of Cardiff replaces him, winning a 17th cap, and Llanelli's Neil Boobyer is named on the bench.

However Allan Bateman (calf) and the captain Robert Howley (leg-muscle strain) came through training and will start if there is no overnight reaction.

Ireland's fitness worry, Keith Wood, has recovered from flu and is a definite starter. The captain did not train on Monday or Tuesday but took part in yesterday's session. "All fears

about his fitness are now gone," the manager Pat Whelan said afterwards.

Richmond has suspended Scott Quinnell for four matches. The Wales No. 8 was sent off for use of the knee during the 30-17 victory over Newcastle. As well as missing club games, he will be unavailable for next month's Five Nations match with France.



Ryan... abrasive character

He will resume his international half-back partnership with his Northampton teammate Paul Grayson, with the 18-year-old Jon Wilkinson, because the heats were ordered to be run on a Sunday.

That Oscar-winning movie *Chariots of Fire* had the Prince of Wales congratulating Liddell on his "two damn fine tries against England" — although the truth is that he never scored against England.

Only comparatively recently has sport routed its Sabbatarian after centuries of trying. In July 1933, some years after Liddell had left Scotland for his mission

fields, seven Glasgow youths were sent to prison for playing street football on the Sabbath.

Even in England the Lord's day was officially observed in those days. There were questions in Parliament when two London council-owned playing fields were opened for organised team games in 1937, and until the second world war affiliated teams that played football or cricket on Sunday risked excommunication by the Football Association or MCC.

Matters relaxed when servicemen and Saturday munitions workers demanded, by force of numbers, a game on the Sabbath — but the FA still refused to condone Sunday play until 1960 and only then if no gate money was charged.

Lord's sanctioned a Sunday League only in 1969. Before that, remember, watching "the Cavaliers XI" sponsored by Rothmans tobacco. The comparatively costly programme scorecard was your entrance fee.

Rugby, however, of course was strictly amateur, or so it proclaimed, and it was rugby league that made the breakthrough, as in so many areas, by taking on the powerful Lord's Day Observance Society and its strong and righteous fist, namely the Parliamentary Act of 1870.

In March 1968 the Rugby League's enlightened secretary Bill Fallowfield warned that the sanctioning of Sunday play would inspire Sabbatarians to "be more active than ever in acting as common informer and prevailing upon police forces to take action whenever there has been a breach of the law, no matter how minor the breach".

In fact, when rugby league first allowed Sunday play, the clubs at Barrow, Batley, Huddersfield, Hunslet and Whitehaven minuted that their players "objected on religious, moral, or social grounds".

Leeds adamantly remained a Saturday club until the 1980-81 season.

THE first professional, paid-for, rugby matches to be played in Britain on a Sunday did not take place until December 17 1967, when 10,377 watched Bradford Northern beat York 33-8 and 6,000 saw Leigh defeat Dewsbury 15-10. Admission to both games was "entry free" with a programme costing fourpence.

"The deed was done — and to such an extent that exactly 30 years on, if you are fully wired, dished, cabled and sitting comfortably, you can now flick your armchair pinger when the ball goes out of play at Murrayfield this Sunday and check on the cricket action from Antigua, the soccer from Middlesbrough, the golf from Portugal or the basketball from Sheffield... the full global menu."

If nothing else this Sunday is final proof that hypocrisy has been routed. In 1933 Osbert Lancaster wrote how his reverend grandfather would allow only croquet on the Sabbath. "Never tennis, for the court was visible from the road and the visible fear of the spectacle of the gentry at play might lead villagers into sin, [whereas] the croquet lawn was concealed by dense shrubbery."

## SPORTS NEWS 15

# And on the seventh day shalt thou get thy kit on



Frank Keating

FOUND: rugby's lost weekend. The traditional Five Nations weekend — see Saturday's match sober as a prelude to a blinding hangover on Sunday — is no more. Wales are in Dublin on Saturday and England in Edinburgh on Sunday and many plan to take in both fixtures, which rules out much hope of a social shindig.

A few years ago Scotland's famously fierce Sabbatarians would have kicked up a Calvinist clatter at the very idea of Murrayfield even opening its gates on Sunday, but television now pays the once-pious piper for exclusive wall-to-wall coverage on whatever day of the week it finds most convenient.

It will be interesting to see, however, if the traditional feel of "the international weekend" can survive a Sunday match. Will those antique rituals and convivialities be cut short by everybody's needs must haste to be back in the Monday-morning office?

Certainly on this Sunday one famous Scottish body will be turning in its missionary's grave far away in Tientsin in China — that of the deeply religious Eric Liddell, who was Scotland's wing-three-quarter against England in the last Calcutta Cup match played at Inverleith.

That was 75 years ago this week, the year before he refused to run for Britain in the 100 metres of the Paris Olympic Games of 1924 because the heats were ordered to be run on a Sunday.

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## Lingfield (A.W.)

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## Roofers required.

## Apply Cheltenham racecourse.

(Ireland's Dorans Pride:



16

One Man wins Champion Chase, page 15

Newcastle pair apologise, page 13

Ryan is recalled by England, page 15

Boro move for Gascoigne, page 13

## SportsGuardian

Champions League quarter-final, second leg

Manchester United 1, Monaco 1 (agg: 1-1; Monaco win on away goal)

## Suffering United are caught cold

David Lacey

**A** GOAL from Ole Solskjær revived Manchester United's flagging hopes of reaching the semi-finals last night after David Trezeguet had given Monaco an early lead. But United were unable to score again and prevent themselves being knocked out on the away goal.

Monaco, boosted by the return of Trezeguet to their attack, usually had the measure of a severely weakened United side which lacked nothing in spirit but were often short of ideas.

United went into this match mentally reciting their twice-table. Any away goal scored by Monaco would be worth double and while United had forced a 0-0 draw in the Louis II Stadium a fortnight earlier they knew they would be in a weak position if they had to chase the game, and it was not long before this knowledge became reality.

Alex Ferguson's team simply could not afford to fall victim to the sort of sucker punch which in last season's semi-finals had seen Borussia Dortmund, already a goal to the good, virtually end United's hopes by increasing their lead before the return leg at Old Trafford was 10 minutes old. Yet this is precisely what happened.

Trezeguet, who had missed the first game with a knee injury, was always going to give Monaco a more forceful pres-

ence near goal and the difference he made was soon seen to dramatic effect. In the fifth minute, as Monaco pushed men forward in numbers for the first time, several half-clearances by United ended with Gary Neville getting the ball away but only to Djibril Diawara. He glanced it down to Ali Benarbia who sent in Trezeguet to beat Raymond van der Grint with an emphatic shot into the roof of the net.

Thus were Manchester United's worst fears realised. Now they felt the absence of Ryan Giggs even more keenly. Ferguson's anticipated gamble with Giggs had not materialised. The Welshman was set to start the game after a six-match absence with a hamstring injury but felt a further twinge in training

yesterday morning and did not even make the bench.

With David Beckham operating in a central role United lacked the width necessary to stretch Monaco's tight-marking sweeper system. Solskjær did bring a roar to Old Trafford's throats when he just failed to make contact with a cross from Beckham but otherwise Monaco continued to look the more likely to score.

Benarbia, Diawara and John Collins were finding gaps in United's cover almost at will, their careful passes frequently catching the opposition square. At the other end Cole and Sheringham, shackled to their markers, struggled to catch glimpses of goal.

United needed not only to raise the pace but get some accuracy and imagination

into their movements. Everything was too predictable, too easy for Franck Dumas, the Monaco libero, and his fellow-defenders. A 25-yard free-kick from Beckham curled past the left-hand post 10 minutes before half-time with Fabien Barthez looking beaten as set-pieces started to become United's main hope of salvation.

The loss of Scholes for the second half did not help United's cause. Doubtful before the game because of a knee problem, he gave way to Michael Clegg, who moved to right-back with Phil Neville pushed forward. Gary Neville had already departed, replaced in defence by Henning Berg just past the half-hour.

It was all the same to Monaco. They continued to play out the match with unforced, accurate movements, the easy possession won in midfield taking the pressure off their defence.

Then suddenly United were alive again, helped by the German referee Hellmut Krug's sensible application of advantage. After 52nd minutes Dumas brought Butt down in the penalty area. Krug put whistle to mouth then waved play on as he saw Beckham in possession and, from a low centre, Solskjær slid the ball past Barthez to bring the scores level.

**Manchester United (4-4-2):** Van der Gouw; P. Neville, G. Neville, Johnson, Irwin; Scholes (Clegg, 4-4), Beckham, Butt, Solskjær, Sheringham, Cole.  
**Monaco (1-4-5-2):** Barthez; Dumas; Sagor, Djedou, Konik (De Costa, 74min), Lodi, Diawara, Collins, Benarbia (Carnot, 66); Ikapeta (Henry, 60), Trezeguet.  
**Referee:** H. Krug (Germany).

## Inzaghi hat-trick spurs on Juve

**A** HAT-TRICK from Filippo Inzaghi inspired Juventus to a 4-1 victory against Dinamo in Kiev last night that sent the Italian side through to the Champions League semi-finals as 5-2 aggregate winners.

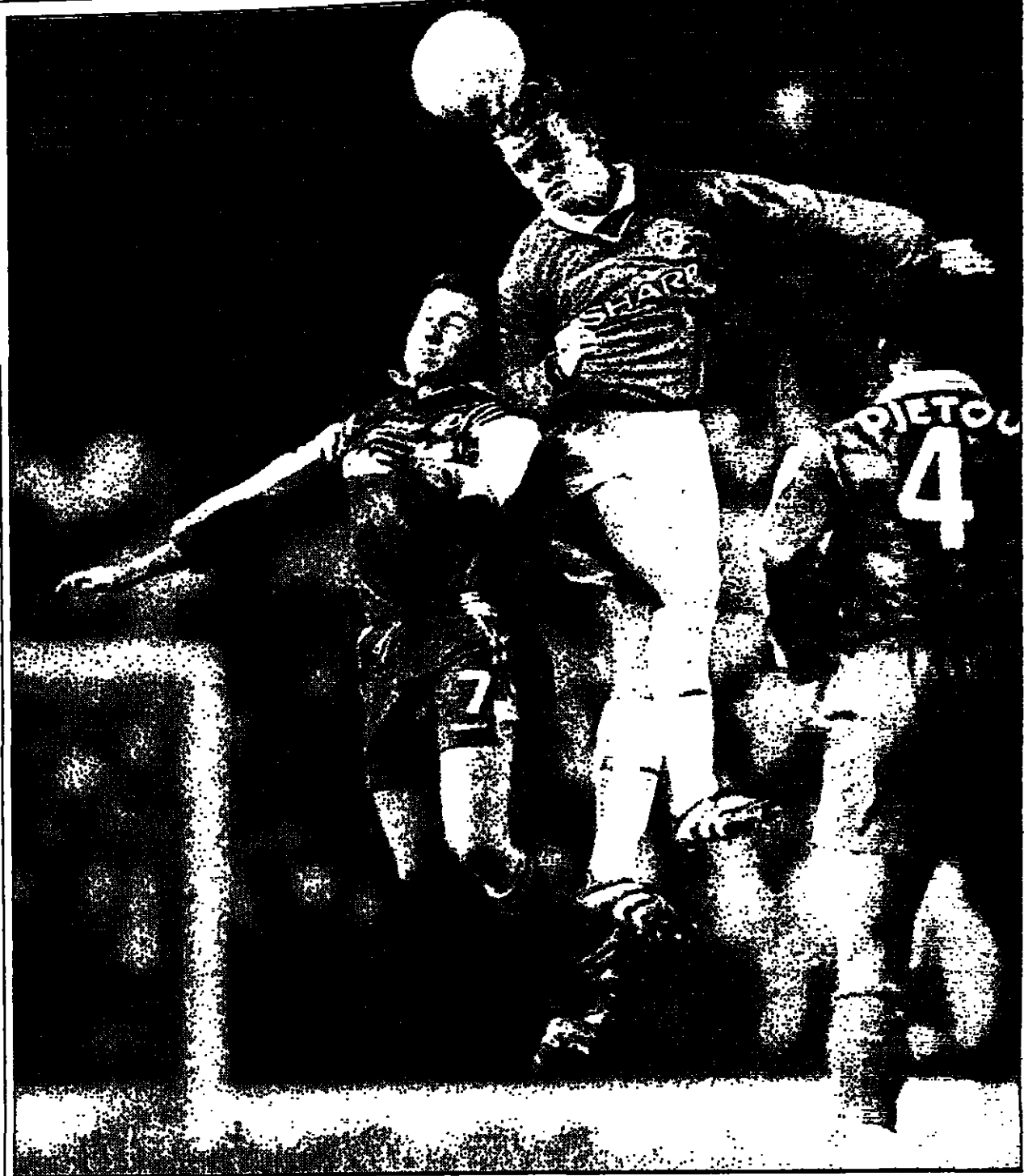
He put Juventus 1-0 ahead in the 29th minute last night and after Sergiy Rebrov had equalised 10 minutes after the break Inzaghi added two more in the 66th and 72nd minutes. Alessandro Del Piero completed the rout two minutes from time.

Real Madrid beat Bayer Leverkusen 3-0 (4-1 over-

all) with Christian Karembeu, Fernando Morientes and Fernando Hierro (penalty) scoring after 50, 58 and 90 minutes.

Chelsea tonight attempt to secure a place in the semi-finals of the Cup Winners' Cup having already reached the final of the Coca-Cola Cup.

In the Premiership Gianluca Vialli has seen his side lose four out of five games since he took over from Ruud Geffert but at the same time the Italian has watched stirring cup wins over Arsenal and, two weeks ago, Real Betis.

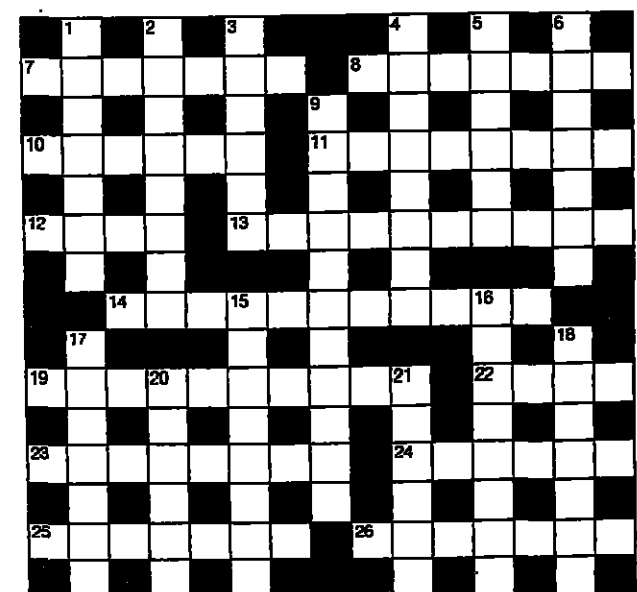


High riser ... David Beckham is head and shoulders above Monaco's John Collins

PHOTOGRAPH BY OWEN HUMPHREYS

## Guardian Crossword No 21,226

Set by Araucaria



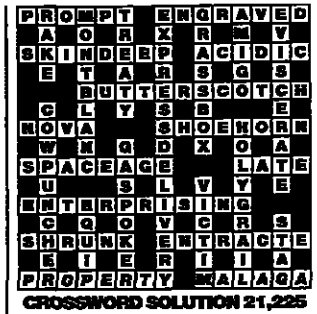
## Across

- 7 Expert on glass is bottled (7)  
8 Beautiful Bobby's justifiable arrest (4,3)  
10 One of a shower with remote control (6)  
11 Love would harass the devil (3,5)  
12 Delighted with young American detective (4)  
13 Used? I'll be round in a minute (6,4)  
14 Former partner to delay act (11)  
15 The snag with some garlic is the knot (5,5)

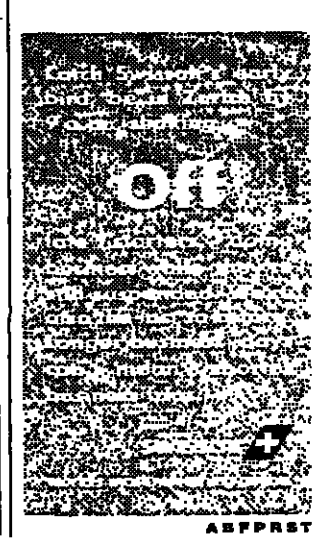
## Down

- 22 Was romancing in song (4)  
23 A young female, that's me: I might be too young for it (3,5)  
24 The doctor's not happy it's a secret service (5)  
25 Representation is about right for height (7)  
26 Extinguish overeating? (4-3)

## Solution tomorrow



Stuck? Then call our solutions line on 0991 338 238. Calls cost 50p per minute, all times. Service supplied by AFS.



## Collapse of pageant

Paul Hayward feels the fear that gripped Old Trafford before the worst happened

**T**HERE was a 50 per cent-off knockdown sale in the Man Utd club shop last night, as if the season was being quietly wound up. For the first time this year there was a sense of unquenchable apprehension along Sir Matt Busby Way. The swashbuckling spirit of autumn and winter was gone.

"Giggs is out," people mumbled dolefully to one another. "Not even on the bench. Nor were Peter Schmeichel or Gary Pallister. Roy Keane had long since shuffled off the radar but that didn't stop supporters talking of him as if he had been injured only yesterday. They were counting their sorrows even before David Trezeguet smashed in a vicious drive with only five minutes gone.

How the great United pageant was collapsing. Beaten at home by Arsenal on Saturday, United staggered into this game with confidence drained and a succession of luminaries passing through the sick bay. Before their rousing second-half comeback last night,

United looked emasculated, further debilitated by the poor form of Andy Cole and Teddy Sheringham, and the greater muscular weight of a cleverly organised Monaco side.

At this level trouble comes in gangs. As the ball zipped between the Monaco players Alex Ferguson must have been longing for

## An emasculated side, further debilitated by the poor form of Cole and Sheringham

the sanctuary of Cheltenham races. When United are off-colour they lack width and penetration. They catch fire when they attack wide and at speed, not trying to muddle through a congested midfield.

Blindsight being the most accurate lens there is, there will be those who will say they should have pressed for victory in Monaco, or that Ferguson should have strengthened his squad over the winter for the multiple engagements of spring. Some of those wise-

acres were the same people who, as recently as December, were cooing about the depth and breadth of Ferguson's squad, and marveling at the verve with which they set about dominating their Champions League group and racing to a seemingly impregnable lead in the Premiership.

The depth of United's distress became apparent so early in the game, when a small knot of perhaps 50 visitors leapt rapturously to their feet at the back of

certainly the story of Aston Villa's ejection at home to Atletico Madrid.

But there is a resilience, an innate hunger about this United side that drove them forward again. After half-time they were transformed. Their hero was the hard-pressed David Beckham, who had to combine ball-winning duties with the job of being United's primary creative force. This was one of those nights that encouraged the belief that Beckham will be able to run games on his own.

For United, failure at the quarter-final stage would have been thought of as a regression. Last year they reached the semi-finals before losing to Dortmund, and, psychologically at least, framed their whole season around trying to complete a 30-year cycle began by the generation of Bobby Charlton and George Best, who had expressed such pessimism about United's chances.

For some it was all too much and as a searing shot from Beckham was tipped over a few United fans started filing down the steps to consider another night of thwarted European ambition. Perhaps they were heading for the club shop to take advantage of those bargains.